

Jordan Times

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جوردان تيمز بوليتيكية يومية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية "الراي"



U.N. envoy to return to Gulf

UNITED NATIONS (A.P.) — Olof Palme of Sweden will leave next Wednesday on his fourth peace mission to end the war between Iran and Iraq. U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar announced on Friday. Perez de Cuellar's spokesman, Francois Giuliani, told reporters that Mr. Palme, the secretary-general's special representative for Iran and Iraq, would take off from Geneva Feb. 24 with a first stop scheduled in Tehran. Mr. Palme will be accompanied by his U.N. secretariat aide, Under Secretary-General Diego Cordovez of Ecuador. Mr. Palme, Social Democratic leader and former prime minister of Sweden, began his missions to the two warring countries as special representative to Kurt Waldheim, Perez de Cuellar's predecessor as U.N. chief.

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Arab ministers to meet in Riyadh

BAHRAIN (R) — Arab interior ministers will meet in Riyadh on Monday to consider establishing a permanent body to streamline security cooperation among Arab countries, the Saudi Press Agency reported Friday. It said that during the meeting, the fourth in the last five years, they would endorse plans to set up a council of Arab interior ministers. The proposed council would have an executive office to follow up decisions of the ministers' meetings.

PLO group denies defection

BEIRUT (A.P.) — The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC) on Friday issued a statement denying any connection with a Palestinian defector. A spokesman for the front said Marwan Sartawi, who in an interview with the Arabic service of Israel Radio declared himself a former member of the group, was a "traitor who had sold himself to the enemy." He said the PFLP-GC had never heard of Mr. Sartawi and that he was not a member of the group. The rightist-controlled Voice of Lebanon radio station had earlier reported Mr. Sartawi, accompanied by a member of the pro-Syrian Sa'iq militia, identified as Abdul Hakim Suleiman, had crossed into the "Free Lebanon" enclave controlled by the Israeli-backed militia of renegade Lebanese army Maj. Saad Haddad and requested political asylum from Israeli authorities last week.

Heavy clashes erupt in Tripoli

BEIRUT (R) — Heavy clashes erupted Friday night between gunmen in the northern Lebanese city of Tripoli, state-run Beirut Radio reported. It quoted security sources as saying that the city, about 70 km north of Beirut, was tense after clashes between "armed elements," whom it did not identify. It said that intensive contacts were under way to restore calm, but made no mention of any casualties. Various local leftist and Palestinian armed groups operate in the city, Lebanon's second largest. The all-Syrian Arab peacekeeping force said after the last clashes there two days ago that its troops had intervened to stop the fighting which started for "local reasons." Earlier in the week, seven people died in a series of shootings.

Jewish militants bomb Aeroflot office

WASHINGTON (R) — Two small bombs exploded early Friday outside the office of the Soviet airline Aeroflot and the militant Jewish Defence League (JDL) later claimed responsibility. A telephone call to the Washington Post office said the bombs caused no injuries and only minor damage when they went off outside Aeroflot's office door shortly before 1 a.m. The call to the Washington Post demanded release of a young Soviet woman, Mariana Timkin, alleged to have been sent to a Soviet mental institution more than six years ago because she wanted to emigrate.

Nigeria foils coup attempt

LAGOS (R) — Nigerian newspapers reported Friday that a coup plot had been foiled, and a government statement said a civilian and some soldiers had been charged with inciting soldiers to mutiny. A statement issued by the executive office of the president said a Nigerian businessman, an army officer and some soldiers had been arrested and charged with "conspiring to commit a felony by the incitement of soldiers to commit a mutiny." The statement, issued last Thursday night by a M.A.O. Oyedele, press secretary at the executive office of President Alhaji Shehu Shagari, said security agents had arrested the politicians and a businessman living in Lagos.

Hassan, Gandhi meet

NEW DELHI (Agencies) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan had a luncheon meeting Friday with Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath arrived Thursday in New Delhi on a six-day tour of India. Earlier Friday, the prince held discussions with President Neelam Sanjiva Reddy at the presidential palace. He will hold a news conference Saturday in the Indian capital. The royal couple is scheduled to tour the Taj Mahal at Agra and the northwestern Indian city of Jaipur before leaving for Lahore, Pakistan, next Wednesday.

Saudi Arabia cuts oil output sharply

NEW YORK (R) — Saudi Arabia has sharply cut its oil output because of weakness in world oil markets, oil industry sources said Friday. The output of the world's largest oil exporter had dropped to between seven and 7.5 million barrels daily this month, the sources said. Industry experts said that at the start of the year Saudi Arabia was producing close to its official ceiling of 8.5 million barrels per day. But by early February output was down to about eight million. The Saudis have been under pressure from fellow members of OPEC (the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries) to cut output in order to reduce the current world glut. Oil company executives have been saying that unless Saudi output is allowed to fall, perhaps as low as six million barrels daily in due course, it may be impossible to halt a slide in oil prices. London oil sources said Friday that on the free, non-contract crude oil market Saudi Arabian light crude had traded at around \$29 a barrel, compared with an official Saudi price for contract sales of \$34. One oil industry source said

Friday night: "Saudi Arabia has been trying to defend its \$34 per barrel price for Saudi light crude by allowing the Aramco companies to lift a little less than their implied quotas." He emphasized there has been no official cut in the Saudi output ceiling. The companies to which the Arabian-American oil company (Aramco) sells the bulk of Saudi oil are Exxon, Mobil, Texaco and the Standard Oil Company of California. The Saudi \$34 price for Arabian light crude is the benchmark on which all 13 OPEC members have aligned their contract prices under agreements clinched late last year. But Iran, desperate to boost flagging sales, broke ranks this month and unilaterally trimmed its price by two dollars a barrel, according to Japanese oil industry sources.

Iran-Iraq contacts suggested

KUWAIT (A.P.) — A roundtable comprising Iranian and Iraqi officials and U.N. Red Cross and Kuwaiti representatives was suggested here Friday. The Kuwaiti newspaper Al Anbaa said the idea has emerged after Kuwait received an official Iranian communication earlier this week asking that Kuwaiti territory be used as staging point for family visits to the estimated 10,000 prisoners of the Iraq-Iran war. Iraq has already approved the choice of Kuwait.

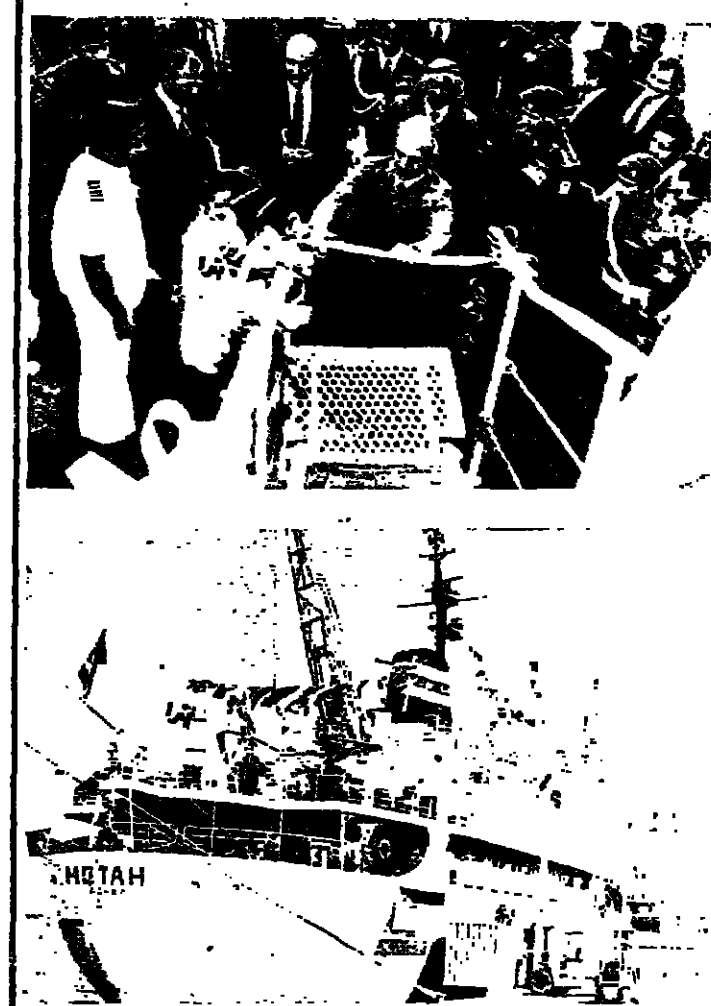
FitzGerald trails in initial Irish returns

DUBLIN, Ireland (A.P.) — Prime Minister Garret FitzGerald's Fine Gael-Labour coalition trailed in unconfirmed early returns reported Friday in the Irish Republic's general election. Irish nationalist candidates from neighbouring Northern Ireland were doing poorly in the initial returns from Thursday's balloting. In the first of what could be a dozen or so ballot counts, the main opposition Fianna Fail party of former Premier Charles Haughey appeared to be picking up support at the expense of Labour, the junior coalition partner. "Things are looking very good," Mr. Haughey told reporters. "The indications are favourable in all marginal constituencies. We are quietly confident at this stage."

Pope, ending Africa tour, warns against materialism

LIBREVILLE, Gabon (A.P.) — Exhausted, looking a little older, but suddenly refreshed by the sight of a child holding up a rosary, Pope John Paul II on Friday wound up his first overseas trip since the attempt on his life with a warning against rampant materialism in developing Africa. Foreign multi-nationals, the pope noted in the farewell speech of his second African tour in the VIP lounge at Libreville airport, "are actively exploiting the long-dormant natural resources of Gabon and other African countries." But, "in the name of a church experienced in the affairs of humanity," he told African leaders to look "beyond the limits of progress" and ask themselves, "what human needs are being satisfied" by the technological advances, and "what kind of men do you wish to produce?" Delivering the 35th and last speech of his four-country West African tour, the pope seemed very tired after eight sweltering, humid days on the road to Nigeria, Benin, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon. On his last day in West Africa, the pope joined a dozen Gabonese priests in co-celebrating a morning high mass at the jammed Libreville sports stadium. Swaying dancers clanging tin pan gongs, chanting warriors in full tribal regalia and echoing gourd drums added an African flavour to the ancient Catholic mass. The liturgy was in French, but the scriptures were read in several tribal dialects. In the crowd on the field was a delegation of Pygmies, Comepto from the forests of Gabon with cameras and parrots to see "popeman."

Motah, the first in line



His Majesty King Hussein inaugurates the Motah, the first ship of the Jordan National Shipping Lines Company, in a ceremony at Aqaba Port on Thursday. The 14,000-tonne, 155-metre general purpose cargo ship will form the nucleus of the company's fleet, whose second member, the Badr, is due to arrive shortly. Also on Thursday, King Hussein opened the first phase of the Water Supply Corporation's JD 12 million Aqaba water supply project in a ceremony at Qa' Al Disi in the Wadi Rumm. (see story on page 3 - Petra photos)

Kuwait urges Soviet role, says French stance wrong

BEIRUT (R) — The Soviet Union should play a role in solving the Middle East crisis, Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah told the Lebanese weekly magazine Arab and International Al Nahar Friday. He also criticised a planned visit to Israel next month by French President Francois Mitterrand. Sheikh Sabah, who is also Kuwaiti deputy prime minister, told the magazine: "Undoubtedly, the Soviet Union is a super power. As the Middle East crisis has entered the international conflict area the Soviet Union should play a role in it so that there will be no bias." He said he believed Mr. Mitterrand's visit would not serve the joint interests of France and the Arab states, but did not elaborate.

Replying to a question, Sheikh Sabah said Israel was the main danger facing all Arab and Islamic states. There had been no change in Israel's policy after its air attack last June on an Iraqi nuclear reactor near Baghdad and the annexation of the occupied Syrian Golan Heights in December, Sheikh Sabah said.

The interview was published a few hours before the foreign minister was due in the UAE for talks on bilateral relations and Middle East developments. Asked why France opposed a United Nations General Assembly resolution last month calling on member states to cease dealings with Israel after its December annexation of the Golan Heights, taken from Syria in 1967, he was reported as saying: "I know the Israelis are behaving in an intolerable way. But we cannot sever all ties with them by imposing sanctions because the search for peace should prevail over everything."

Khmeini foes executed at public stadium

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (A.P.) — A Yugoslav reporter who recently visited Iran said Friday a number of left-wing opponents to the regime were executed at a public stadium before thousands of spectators. The report, printed in the respected Belgrade newspaper Politika, said the incident took place late last year in a north Iranian town, but did not specify the place. The group executed, whose exact number was not given, were members of the outlawed Mujahedeen guerrillas, captured after fierce fighting by revolutionary guards, Politika said. The captured members were then blindfolded, driven in trucks to the stadium where their blindfolds were removed moments before they were executed by a firing squad. The paper's reporter returned from Iran recently after visiting the country during celebrations marking the third anniversary of Ayatollah Khomeini's rule.

Syrian press plays down car blast

DAMASCUS (R) — The newspaper of Syria's ruling Baath Party appeared on the newsstands as usual Friday, apparently none the worse for an explosion on Thursday which damaged the exterior and shattered the windows of its office building. The daily, Al Baath, ran to its full length of 12 pages with only the faintest typographical traces indicating it was produced under unusual circumstances.

Journalists said the paper's basement presses had not been affected by the car-bomb which exploded beside the smart new building early on Thursday afternoon. Al Baath gave no new details of the blast, merely printing Wednesday's report by the official Syrian news agency SANA, which said no one had been killed and only a few people injured in the blast. The report said the man who planted the bomb, who was killed by security guards, was a member of the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood and charged that he was an agent of Israel and the United States.

The government has given cautious publicity to the incident. The three leading Damascus dailies all published SANA's report, together with photographs of the damaged building, which was also shown in a brief film clip on Syrian television Thursday night.

Fears grow in Israel of U.S. determination to sell arms to Jordan

'Naturally,' Begin 'will do everything possible to prevent that development'

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — U.S. statements designed to reassure Israel on the possible supply of advanced American weapons to Jordan have in fact raised new fears here that the arms deal will soon go through. Israeli officials said Friday. "The Americans may have thought they were reassuring us about the supply of sophisticated weaponry to Jordan but their remarks have caused us new concern that the sale will soon take place," a government official told Reuters. He said Israel understood U.S. needs to develop close ties with some Arab countries but it "should be done by encouraging them to enter the peace process with us, not simply by selling them new lethal toys that will only be used against Israel." President Reagan said at a Washington press conference Thursday that Jordan had not asked for new U.S. weapons and that if Amman made the request, "we'll deal with it." He earlier sent Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin a reassuring letter. Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger, whose recent Middle East trip sparked an outcry in Israel about possible U.S. arms supplies to Jordan, said on Thursday Amman had made no formal request for weapons. Mr. Weinberger's Middle East trip gave rise to reports last week that the U.S. would seriously consider supplying Jordan with F-16 aircraft and Hawk ground-to-air missiles. The reports caused a furore in Israel where the Knesset (parliament) called on the U.S. not to enter any new arms deal with Jordan, and Mr. Begin sent President Reagan a message to the same effect. Israel's new ambassador to the U.S., Moshe Arens, discussed the arms issue during his first official call on Secretary of State Alexander Haig on Thursday. Israeli newspapers reported Friday that Mr. Haig told the ambassador no arms deal with Jordan was pending and repeated statements by President Reagan and Mr. Weinberger that there was no change in the U.S. policy of maintaining Israeli military superiority in the region. But the papers said Mr. Arens emerged from the meeting with the impression that the U.S. was determined to supply Arab countries with moderate weapons. The papers noted that President Reagan, in his message to Mr. Begin, said the U.S. plans to continue "to enhance its influence with other states in the region."

Cheysson criticises Israel's behaviour

ABU DHABI (R) — French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson was quoted Friday as saying Israel was behaving in an intolerable way following its annexation of the Golan Heights. He also said in an interview with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) news agency he believed any potential Palestinian state had to be set up on Israeli-occupied Arab lands.

The interview was published a few hours before the foreign minister was due in the UAE for talks on bilateral relations and Middle East developments. Asked why France opposed a United Nations General Assembly resolution last month calling on member states to cease dealings with Israel after its December annexation of the Golan Heights, taken from Syria in 1967, he was reported as saying: "I know the Israelis are behaving in an intolerable way. But we cannot sever all ties with them by imposing sanctions because the search for peace should prevail over everything."

He said he hoped Israel would "behave realistically and accept the evident truth that there will be no peace without the Palestinian people obtaining their rights because the right to self-determination is completely different from autonomy."

But he said he did not know whether Israel would have the courage to accept this reality and whether the United States would continue to deny a clear fact. Almost three years of Israeli-Egyptian talks on autonomy for Palestinians in occupied territories have produced little progress under the U.S.-sponsored Camp David accords. The French minister denied charges by some Arab countries that the Socialist government of President Francois Mitterrand was trying to improve relations with Israel at the expense of friendship with the Arab World. But he reiterated that France would support peace moves emanating from the Middle East, although it would not take any initiatives itself.

Haig 'pessimistic' on Mideast peace

WASHINGTON (R) — The Washington Post newspaper said Friday that notes taken at private meetings show U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig holds pessimistic views about Middle East peace prospects which contrast with the official government line. Notes taken by an unidentified participant at Mr. Haig's staff meetings last month and published by the Washington Post reflect pessimism, including a fear that Egypt will break off the peace process once Israel returns the last part of the occupied Sinai late in April. At a meeting on Jan. 18, after a four-day Middle East tour, Mr. Haig is quoted as saying that Egypt would go back into the Arab World with the United States isolated as Israel's sole defender. The State Department had no comment on the notes but did not dispute their authenticity.

Rees leaves for Baghdad

AMMAN (Petra) — British Minister for Trade Peter Rees and the delegation accompanying him left Amman for Baghdad on Friday evening after a two-day visit to Jordan. Mr. Rees will have talks with his Iraqi counterpart on strengthening cooperation between the two countries in trade, energy and industrial projects. He will return to Amman on Sunday to complete his talks with Jordanian officials.

Golan Arabs air demands as strike enters 6th day

TEL AVIV (R) — A general strike by Arab Druze residents of the occupied Golan Heights continued Friday for the sixth day and community leaders met with an Israeli official to air their demands for the first time since the strike started. The Druze, who number 13,000 on the Golan Heights, closed businesses and schools and refused to commute to work in Israel because of the detention of four of their leaders last Friday on charges of incitement against the authorities. The Israeli official who Friday met strike organisers promised to pass their demands to the government. Meanwhile the leader of a pro-Israeli faction among the Golan Druze expressed concern that the Israeli government was abandoning them. Mr. Salman Abu Salah, who is believed to represent several hundred members of his community, told reporters his group demanded to be included in any negotiations to end the strike.

'Autonomy' envoy ends talks in Israel; protests continue

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (A.P.) — U.S. special ambassador Richard Fairbanks met with Prime Minister Menachem Begin Friday and said important issues remained to be resolved in the Palestinian "autonomy" negotiations. Mr. Fairbanks, on his first trip to the Middle East since his appointment, told reporters after an hour with Mr. Begin that U.S., Israeli and Egyptian working teams will meet in Cairo "in about 10 days" for talks on self-rule for Palestinians of the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. "The autonomy process is moving forward...we have some important issues to resolve but we are happy with progress," Mr. Fairbanks said. Mr. Fairbanks arrived in Israel Wednesday and was to leave for Cairo Sunday. During his visit he met with Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, chief autonomy negotiator Yosef Burg and Defence Minister Ariel Sharon. The working teams will discuss the size and jurisdiction of a Palestinian council to be set up in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Another contentious issue, whether or not East Jerusalem Arabs should participate in the Palestinian council, will be discussed later, Mr. Fairbanks said. Protests continue. Protest incidents were reported on the West Bank. In Kalandira refugee camp, on the outskirts of northern Jerusalem, demonstrators smashed the windshield of a passing Israeli bus, a military spokesman said. Israel Radio reported several Arabs arrested for smashing the windshield of an army truck in the West Bank's largest town Nablus. Three other Palestinian youths were arrested for scrawling anti-Israel slogans on public buildings in the village of Tulkarim, on the West Bank's border with Israel. Protests appeared to be less after two days of widespread protests following the closure of Birzeit University Tuesday. The university was closed for the second time in three months after students clashed with two Israeli education officials.

NATIONAL

Prices drop for imported maize, natural soft drinks

AMMAN (Petra) — Supply Minister Ibrahim Ayyoub has issued a defence order fixing the price of each tonne of imported maize at JD 65. Another defence order fixed the retail prices of imported 170-180-millilitre cans of natural soft drinks at 90 fils. Containers of 250-260 millilitres will cost 115 fils each, one-litre bottles 460 fils and 1.27-litre cans 460 fils, retail.

A third defence order fixed the retail prices of locally produced processed soft drinks at 45 fils for a 200-millilitre can and 40 fils for a 250-millilitre can. It also fixed the retail price of locally produced natural soft drinks at 80 fils for a 250-millilitre can, 65 fils for 200-millilitre cans and 60 fils for each 185-millilitre can.

Another defence order fixed the prices of full-cream powdered milk at JD 1.660 for each 1,800-gramme can, JD 1.845 for a 2,000-gramme can, and JD 2.305 for a 2,500-gramme can. It fixed the wholesale price of all types of milk imported by the Ministry of Supply at JD 1.430 for 1,800 grammes, and the retail price at JD 1.480. The defence order also fixed the maximum price of a one-kilogramme can of full-cream powdered milk imported in stainless steel cans at 815 fils.

The announcement said the price of maize has been reduced by JD 4 for each tonne, the third reduction in four months. Thus the price of maize has been reduced by JD 11 a tonne in the last four months.

It added that the prices of imported natural drinks or fruit juices have been reduced by 20 to 40 fils for small cans, and 100 to 160 fils for the big can. The price of locally produced processed soft drinks has been reduced by 20 to 40 fils a can.

For imported milk, the price increase did not go beyond an international increase in the prices, amounting to 0.05 per cent.

West Germany stresses intent to continue Jordan assistance

AMMAN (J.T.) — German-Jordanian government negotiations took place here from Feb. 14 to 16 on future development cooperation. On Feb. 15 West German Minister for Economic Cooperation Rainer Offergeld made the following statement in Bonn:

"The Federal Republic of Germany and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan have cooperated closely in the development policy sector for more than two decades now. During this period the two countries have been quite successful in their joint endeavours. The railroad to Aqaba, and the port of this city, were improved;

Land, money given to force

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordanian citizens around the country continued Thursday and Friday to hold rallies to express support of His Majesty King Hussein's initiative allowing Jordanian volunteers to join the Yarmouk Force, and have continued to make contributions to the Yarmouk Force.

Contributions made by various banks, companies, establishments and citizens on Thursday totalled JD 29,420. Contributions collected at a popular rally in Ramtha totalled JD 38,384, and several Ramtha youths announced that they would volunteer for the Yarmouk Force.

A popular rally was also held in Marka, where participants contributed a total of JD 56,000 in addition to pieces of land to be used by the force. At a popular rally in Fuhes, participants contributed a total of JD 11,000 to the Yarmouk Force.

Participants in a popular rally in Na'our and adjoining villages on Friday contributed some JD 16,000.

First aid expert arrives from U.K.

AMMAN (Petra) — The Civil Defence Directorate has announced the arrival here of a London-based specialist on training for first aid and emergency operations.

It said the specialist, from the London first aid department, will supervise training on rescue work during road accidents. The specialist is here in implementation of an agreement with the Civil Defence Directorate for offering high-level training to Civil Defence men on rescue operations.

The directorate also announced the opening of a training course on first aid and emergency work.

'First step' taken towards eliminating service cars

AMMAN (Petra) — Traffic Department Director Ahmad Abu Al Su'oud announced on Friday that taxi offices in Amman would be allowed to add five cars each to their fleets.

Col. Abu Al Su'oud said the decision to increase the taxi fleets, which are limited by law, was a "first step" towards eliminating the service, or fixed-route, taxis now operating all over Amman. He said because of the increase in the number of buses, several service drivers are no longer making enough profit. Service taxis will be allowed to join taxi offices, he said.

Col. Abu Al Su'oud said no attempt was being made to prevent the service taxis from operating. However, they would eventually disappear as a result of the increasing efficiency of the buses. He said drivers would have the choice of whether or not to stay in business, and that they have rendered a great service to the capital.

Senator Glenn ends visit

AMMAN (Petra) — U.S. Senator John Glenn and his delegation left Amman Thursday afternoon at the end of a two-day visit to Jordan during which they met with His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. Sen. Glenn also met with high-ranking Jordanian officials and heard an explanation of Jordan's stand on the Middle East issue.

Knoxville World's Fair agent arrives for Amman contacts

AMMAN (J.T.) — Engineer Raja Jubran, a representative of the 1982 World's Fair, arrived in Amman on Thursday. The 1982 World's Fair will be held in Knoxville, Tennessee from May 1 to Oct. 31, he said. It will be the first official international fair to be held in the southeast of the United States, and the first to be held in the U.S. for eight years.

Twenty-one countries besides the United States have already announced that they will have displays at the fair, whose theme will be Energy Turns the World. The most prominent among them will be the People's Republic of China, which will participate for the first time in an international fair. Several Arab countries will also participate.

Mr. Jubran, during his stay in Jordan, will be meeting some of the prominent people who would be responsible for a Jordanian participation in the fair, and with agencies that will facilitate visits by Jordanians to the fair.

Asfour discusses cooperation with counterpart in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD (J.T.) — Possibilities of stepping up the level of Pakistani-Jordanian economic cooperation were discussed in Islamabad on Tuesday at a meeting between Pakistani Federal Commerce Minister Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Jordanian Minister of Industry and Trade Walid Asfour.

The two ministers agreed that concrete measures should be taken to improve the shipping service and build up strong business links between the two countries, to increase the trade flow.

Mr. Asfour said Pakistan was in a position to cater to the requirements of Jordan to a large extent. He said possibilities also existed for initiating joint ventures in mutually beneficial fields.

Mr. Khan extended an invitation for a Jordanian delegation to visit Pakistan.

Blacklist decisions announced

AMMAN (Petra) — The minister of finance and customs has decided to blacklist several foreign ships and companies for violation of Arab boycott of Israel regulations, and to remove from the blacklist several others. Five Liberian, French, Greek and Italian ships have been removed from the blacklist, while several American, West German, Maltese, French and Australian companies were blacklisted.

Alia opens sales office at Dearborn

DEARBORN, Michigan (J.T.) — Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, recently opened new passenger sales and service offices at 13912 Michigan Ave., Dearborn, and announced the appointment of Mr. Shukri Yanni as sales manager for Detroit.

Mr. Yanni, whose territory includes Michigan and Ohio, now is based at the Alia offices in Dearborn. He joined Alia in February 1981, as sales account manager in Chicago. A veteran with 30 years of experience in the airline industry, Mr. Yanni started his career in the Middle East, where he served Air Jordan in a variety of traffic and sales positions in Amman, Jerusalem and Kuwait.

Mr. Yanni later joined Kuwait Airways in Kuwait, where he served with the carrier for 18 years in sales and public relations management posts.

Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, now operates five Boeing 747 "combi" flights each week directly between New York's Kennedy International Airport and Amman.

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NATIONAL

Aqaba water supply project comes on stream

Water from desert wells for Jordan's booming port

By Steve Ross
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — When His Majesty King Hussein opened the first phase of the Aqaba water supply project at Qa' Al Disi on Thursday, years of careful study and planning bore fruit. The ceremony in the middle of the Wadi Rumm desert marked the culmination of an international effort to utilise the scarce water resources of the south in the best manner possible, to meet the needs of a rapidly growing, ever-thirstier port city.

The project inaugurated on Thursday has four main elements: The wellfield and headworks complex at Qa' Al Disi; the trunk main from the wells to Aqaba; the distribution network within the town, and the trunk distribution main from Aqaba to the plant of the Jordan Fertiliser Industry Company (JFIC) at Wadi Two, 17 kilometres south of Aqaba. The Disi-Aqaba main and that to the fertiliser plant total 92 kilometres in length.

Mr. John Reid, resident director for Howard Humphreys — the British consultants on the project — told the Jordan Times that in accordance with a policy of "staging" certain elements of the project had been brought to points where they would be sufficient to meet present needs, but could be further developed as needed. Thus, while the trunk main to Aqaba is capable of handling 17.5 million cubic metres of water a year, at first it will carry only 10 million. This will be drawn out of seven existing boreholes drilled in the current stage. Seven more will be required to bring the flow up to the pipe's capacity.

Also staged, Mr. Reid said, are the reservoirs, the Aqaba distribution network and the Qa' Al Disi power station. In addition to a 9,000-cubic-metre reservoir immediately north of Aqaba and a 4,500-cubic-metre one at the JFIC plant site, to provide reserve storage and absorb pressure fluctuations, the town has two reservoirs totalling 4,750 cubic metres of capacity. These serve a low-level and a high-level supply zone, with a reticulation system comprising 31 kilometres of ductile iron pipes.

The power station at the wellfield site now has four 550-kilowatt diesel generators — three main and one backup. These provide electricity to drive the pumps submerged in the boreholes, two pumps in each hole. Also built at

the site were administration offices, chlorination facilities, accommodation and messing.

The JD 12 million total cost of the project is financed in part by three foreign loans. The Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development extended one of 2.1 million Kuwaiti dinars; the Saudi Development Fund, 70 million Saudi riyals; and the British Overseas Development Administration provided £3.35 million.

The largest contract in the project was that for the construction of the trunk main. Valued at JD 4,554,835, it was performed by a joint venture of the U.K.'s Laing Projects and the local firm Trans-Orient Construction (Trocen). Thyssen Schalker Verein of West Germany had a JD 2,771,397 contract for the supply of ductile iron pipes, and an Italian firm, Compagnia Mediterranea di Prospezione, JD 1,365,589 job to construct the boreholes. Three other British companies — Stanton and Staveley, APE Allen and Blakeborough — had contracts worth JD 738,135, JD 662,000 and JD 111,402 respectively. The first was for the supply of ductile iron pipes, the second for the supply and installation of diesel generators and the third for supply of valves and special equipment. Hanbo Construction Company of South Korea built the distribution network for JD 504,500, and Jordan's Sudqi Nayef supplied the borehole pumps, for JD 275,000.

Examining the aquifer

The water produced by the new wellfield will be added to the flow from existing wells in the Wadi Yutm, between Al Disi and Aqaba. Those wells, until the present project came onstream, supplied two million cubic metres of water a year to cover all the needs of Aqaba and the surrounding area. When the Disi wells reach

their full planned potential, the total flow will thus become 19.5 million cubic metres a year, supplying Aqaba, Ouweira, the south coast and villages in the area.

Howard Humphreys was asked in 1976 to perform a hydrogeological study of the aquifers in both the Wadi Yutm and the Disi area. It was as a result of this study that the consultants decided to proceed with the development of the catchment at Qa' Al Disi, a site within the Disi region. By what Mr. Reid calls a "conservative" estimate, the site was thought able to produce between 17 million and 20 million cubic metres a year for at least 50 years without excessive drawdown, or change in the aquifer.

Mr. Reid stresses that the aquifer, or water-bearing stratum, is the core of any water project, and must be examined very carefully. It is thought that the ground water flow under Disi originates to the south, in the Umm Sahm mountains along the Saudi Arabian border. Flowing in a northeasterly direction, the water hits a sort of natural underground dam, the Kharawi Dyke, which runs from northwest to southeast just beyond Qa' Al Disi. The new wellfield intercepts a large portion of the water flowing around the northwestern end of the dyke.

Mr. Reid says he thinks it likely that the aquifer's true potential at the wellfield site is substantially greater than 17-20 million cubic metres a year, and could be as high as 25 million. Beyond that, he says, one could also get much more water — "more than twice this amount" — by extending the wellfield and drilling more boreholes to the east, along the Kharawi Dyke.

But all such projections are governed by drawdown, or the cone of depression. Explaining this concept, Mr. Reid said that a water surface which in its natural state would be relatively level is "drawn down" by the extraction of water over a period of time, so that a hollow or depression is formed. The depth of this hollow depends on the rate of pumping and on the qualities of the sandstone formations in the aquifer, such factors as transmissivity and storage coefficient.

By analysing all available information, including data obtained during the construction of the Disi wellfield, the consultants made predictions of the amount of drawdown that could be expected at Qa' Al Disi. Mr. Reid says that

while in general, the ground water is now about 100 metres below the surface, it could drop as much as another 80 metres after 50 years of pumping. Howard Humphreys is now doing a computer study to rerate the aquifer and get a more accurate assessment of its potential.

The seven existing boreholes are 400 metres deep, and are cased or screened for the full depth. They measured 219 millimetres across for the upper half, and 171 millimetres in diameter below that. The two pumps which will draw water out of each hole have a lifetime of 15 years each, Mr. Reid said — accordingly they have been placed low enough in the holes that they will still be under water within 15 years, according to the expected degree of drawdown.

Demand projections

The timing of any expansion in the wellfield and other elements of the project depends on the needs of the area it serves. In 1977, along with its study of the aquifer, Howard Humphreys did detailed work on demand in the Aqaba area. Taking various variables into account and adjusting estimates for changes in each variable, the consultants estimated the city's demand for water in the year 2005 at somewhere between 42 million and 13 million cubic metres a year. Estimates based on different values for each variable in demand — industrial, domestic or agricultural — ended on different figures somewhere between those two extremes.

At the time those estimates were made, the consultants had "no idea of how fast Aqaba would grow," Mr. Reid said. Nor did anyone else. But based on more recent information, he now thinks the demand figure will lie somewhere between 23 million and 35 million cubic metres a year. Domestic consumption represents about half of that figure.

Mr. Reid estimates that Aqaba will need the full 17.5 million capacity of the project within 10 years, which means work should start on its implementation about five years before that. This projection, however, depends on steady and continued expansion of major users like the JFIC plant.

Howard Humphreys is also providing consulting services on the Aqaba sewage and sewage treatment scheme, on which Mr. Reid says work will probably start

in about two months' time. The scheme envisages the collection of waste from the existing sewer network, the construction of a new main network, a pumping station to lift waste to a treatment plant and the construction of that plant, at a site in the Wadi Araba, some four kilometres from the coast.

The plant will be capable of treating 9,000 cubic metres of effluent a day in its first stage, Mr. Reid said. The ultimate capacity in the scheme is twice that.

The sewerage project will be supported by a \$7.5 million loan from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), with the balance covered by the Jordanian government. A U.S. embassy official told the Jordan Times that three firms were now involved in negotiations for the contract. They include a Jordanian, a Turkish and a South Korean company, he said; but he declined to name the parties due to the sensitivity of negotiations.



King Hussein cuts the inaugural ribbon at Qa' Al Disi Thursday (Petra photo)

Tool for emancipation, development

HIS ROYAL Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Tuesday signed the Declaration of Mexico on Informatics, Development and Peace. The declaration was signed in Mexico City on June 23, 1981 by Mexican President Lopez Portillo as a "witness of rank" and representatives of many states, including Jordan. Prince Hassan was invited to sign the declaration as an "Arab and international intellectual" concerned with the questions of information, peace and development. Copies of the declaration are deposited at the Mexican president's office and headquarters of the Rome-based Intergovernmental Bureau for Informatics.

Following is the full text of the Mexico Declaration:

1. In the course of the 1960s and the 1970s important technological advances were made in the field of electronics which have given a new dimension to informatics and its use in economic and social development. The use of these new techniques in informatics and telecommunications for the widening of knowledge, the improvement of management and the increase of productivity creates a new and important factor of disequilibrium between developed and developing countries. The decade of the 80s is a period of challenge and contradictions. On the one hand, science has greatly extended our understanding of the world and of society while a burgeoning of technology offers enormous possibilities for improving the standard of living and quality of life of all people. On the other hand, mankind is faced with increasingly complex problems which may condition its survival. These trends are interacting in a way which increases tensions within and between societies to the point of endangering peace. Informatics can play a critical role in lowering these tensions.

2. Among the problems raised are: the deadlock of the North-South dialogue; growing economic and technological disparities; wide-spread poverty, hunger, ignorance and disease; the arms race; the inadequacy of current approaches to development; the inability to fully master and effectively harness this great potential of science and technology for a substantial improvement in the conditions of life; and the quantitative and qualitative waste of human resources.

3. Recent technological breakthroughs and others which are expected are creating unprecedented opportunities for the betterment of the human condition, but portend as well negative trends which need to be checked. Informatics, through its wide possibilities of application in almost all sectors of human activity, offers a powerful tool for the management of technological development, and opens up new possibilities for cultural and educational development. Herein lies the challenge: wisely used with humanitarian understanding it can contribute greatly to the solution of fundamental problems and hence to the establishment of peace. Applied in a technocratic and excessively centralised manner, it can increase the complexity of problems, rendering them more difficult to solve. Informatics is thus becoming more and more an instrument of power which affects the political, economic, social and cultural spheres nationally and worldwide and hence is of immediate concern to decision-makers at all

levels.

4. One of the important consequences of these changes is the redistribution of productive and service activities on a global basis which will pose a series of complex issues for consideration. Among other things, international debates must take into account transborder data flows and their impact on the movement of labour and technological concentration.

5. Informatics is an important ingredient as well as a consequence of development. Its mastering implies an endogenous and autonomous approach to development, an increasing reliance on human resources, a greater emphasis on its scientific and technological dimensions and an awareness of the implication for cultural identity and diversity. Informatics, to the extent it could become an effective instrument for promoting organisational, managerial and administrative structures, can assist in the solution of problems of development.

6. Due to the fact that many areas of informatics require extensive technological and economic resources it is important that a greater coordination and integration is effected at sub-regional and regional level.

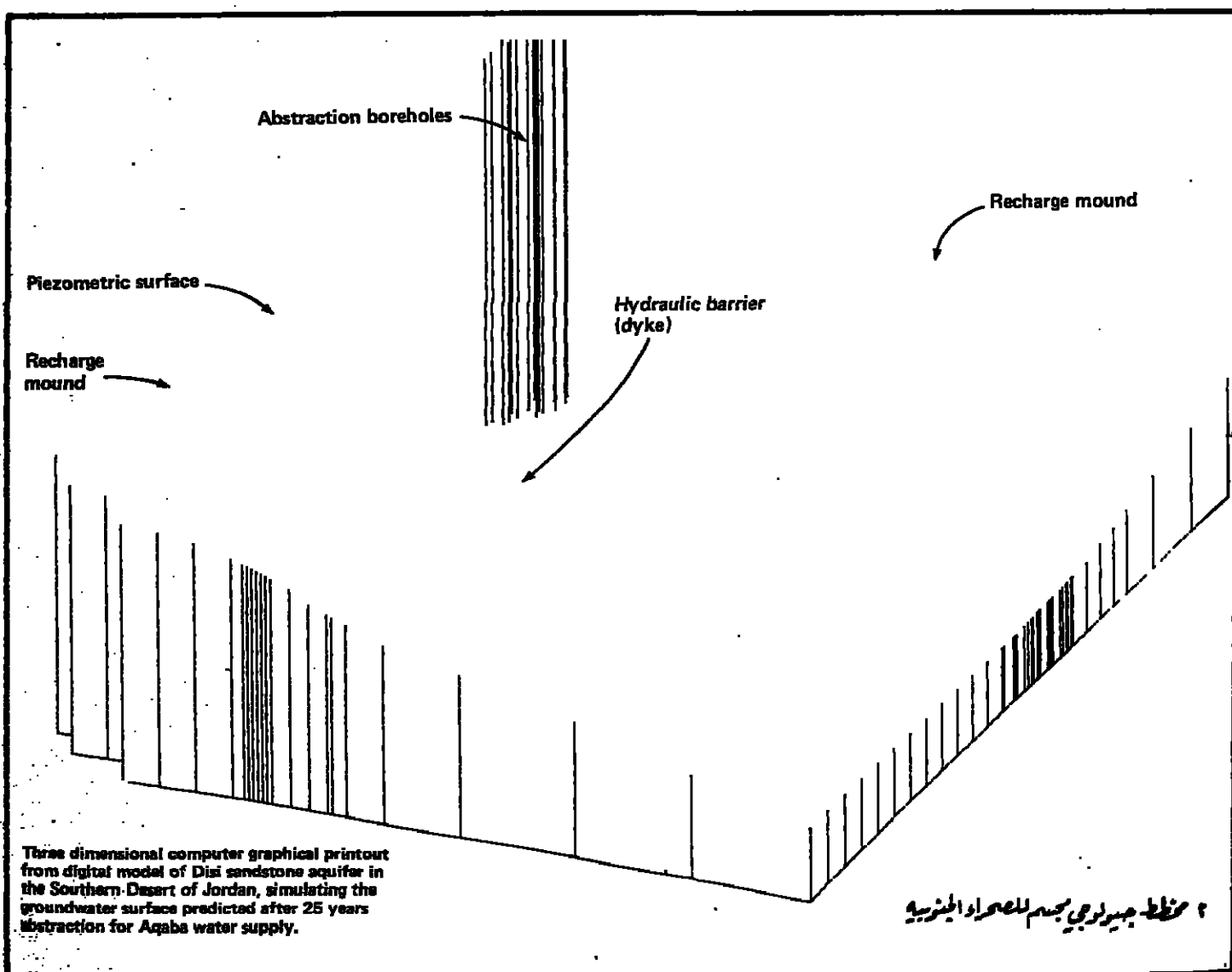
7. The capacity to assimilate and evolve technology depends on the political will to adopt national strategies and policies and enhance international cooperation, permitting the development of adequate capacities and infrastructures for technology and management and high quality training facilities.

8. Effective use of informatics requires the mastering of the capacity to generate and process information. The most important element in this respect is not only the tool itself but also the content of the information and the economic and socio-cultural context which conditions its receptivity and relevance.

9. The traditional forms of regional and international cooperation are insufficiently flexible and imaginative to meet the new needs. Hence new forms of cooperation must be urgently devised so as to ensure greater participation and enable the anticipation of problems before they arise.

10. The right to information, such as it is recognised by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and international treaties, is acquired, due to technological evolution, a scope which is qualitatively and quantitatively different from that which prevailed when they were adopted. The concept of the "right to information" must be reinterpreted in the light of changes due to informatics.

11. Informatics, if developed in the interest of all of mankind, can serve as an instrument of emancipation and development fully preserving the right of individuals to privacy and self-fulfilment. Only thus can it effectively contribute to universal prosperity, human dignity, social justice and ultimately to world peace. The World Conference on Strategies and Policies for Informatics (SPIN) to be held in Havana, Cuba, in June 1983 offers a propitious occasion for the promotion of the objectives set out in the present Declaration.



Computer projection of drawdown at Qa' Al Disi after 25 years of pumping

WHAT'S GOING ON

Exhibition

* Exhibition of Iraqi books on political, historical and literary subjects, and other publications at the University of Jordan Hall. Ends today.

Play

* Arsenic and Old Lace, a comedy, performed by the Amman Players at the Ministry of Education theatre in Jabal Luwibdeh at 8 p.m. Ends today.

Today's Weather

It will be cloudy and warmer, with southeasterly fresh winds, gusting at times. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

	Overnight low	Daytime high
Amman	5	17
Aqaba	10	25
Deserts	4	18
Jordan Valley	12	24

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 15, Aqaba 23. Humidity readings: Amman 31 per cent, Aqaba 30 per cent.

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No thanks, friends

THE CONTINUING desire of the United States to explain its policy in the Middle East only heightens the basic flaws in that policy. Note, for example, the two statements made in the past few days by President Reagan and Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger. The president said his plans to deal with the escalating arms race in the Middle East included his support for the Camp David accords and efforts to persuade "moderate" Arabs to join the Camp David process. Mr. Weinberger, who because of protocol has to be less perplexing and incoherent than his boss, said that the United States has to extend the hand of friendship to several countries in the Middle East, and not only to Israel. These two men are no doubt sincere in what they say, but they fail to understand that what they propose as the solution to the problem is, in fact, the problem itself. The only constant element in American policy in the Middle East since 1948 has been an unwavering commitment to the existence of Israel, regardless of how much Arab land Israel occupies and how many times it uses American weapons and money to attack its Arab neighbours. For the highest officials of the United States now to assert in harmony that they wish to develop ties with both Israelis and Arabs, while the unresolved Palestine issue remains the only real contentious issue between Arabs and Israelis, is a performance that would warrant a C- at best from a freshman logic course at any university in the United States.

We have recently seen the apogee of American political sophistication in bilateral relations in the disintegration of the Shah's regime in Iran. Is the American leadership anxious to see that performance repeated with Arab regimes (or Central American regimes, for that matter) who are willing to deal with the Americans on their own fantasy terms? This is the only logical consequence of what the Americans are doing. If they do not care to see the full reality of it, the people of the Arab World see it very clearly, and thus reply: Thanks, but no thanks.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

Dignity is here to stay

AL RA'I: Israeli Defence Minister Ariel Sharon has threatened any Arab countries that seek to supply their armies with more weapons with deterrent strikes. This threat, which came in a television interview, was an admission by Sharon that Israel was no longer capable of keeping up with the arms race with the Arab countries.

What Sharon said was the most serious threat to the Arabs, because it is a provocative attempt to keep Israel superior and to keep the Arab armament under Israel's control. This frankly and candidly means that Israel has decided to attack any Arab country if its armament capacity goes beyond the limit allowed by Israel, and that the Arabs are now threatened with Israeli blows to abort their strength.

Thus the aim of the Israeli strategy announced by Sharon is to prevent the Arabs from building up their strength by dealing blows to them to keep the Israeli military superiority in the area.

The question whether there is any relationship between Sharon's threats and the American assurances to keep the Israeli military superiority in terms of quality and quantity, and whether Israel would embark on a military adventure before its final withdrawal from Sinai on Apr. 25.

In all cases, the strategy announced by Sharon means that Israel has decided to wage war on the Arabs, even if the Arabs do not start the war. The Arabs should take such a thing seriously and, accordingly, act with the same seriousness dictated by the situation.

The issue facing the Arabs now is no longer restricted to regaining their usurped rights as was the case before, but has gone beyond that to involve the defence of their sovereignty against the domination of Israel, which wants to dictate to them in matters related to the armament of their own armed forces. Furthermore, the question also involves the very security of the Arabs, publicly threatened by the Israeli Defence Minister.

The Arabs should confront the challenge facing them and save the area from Israel's domination and regain their usurped rights. Needless to say, all this cannot be achieved by resolutions and protests, but by struggle of the fighters.

Israel is now making the assumption that Arabs have abandoned their dignity, and is building its calculations and decisions accordingly. The reply to this is to push the aggressors and the arrogant people and to present the evidence that Arab dignity is still there and will continue to be there. The Arabs will never give in to the Israeli domination and the adventures and their allies will pay the price of their adventures.

Partners in crime

AL DUSTOUR: What President Reagan said in his recent letter to Menachem Begin on his country's continued commitment to secure Israeli military superiority in terms of quality and quantity is of serious implications.

A pledge by a superpower like the United States to keep the Israeli military superiority without any condition, while Israel occupies the territories of Arab states, means that Washington is a partner with the aggressor state whether in occupying the territories of other states or in its threats to commit further aggression against all the Arab countries.

We could have understood such a position if it was coupled with a clear American commitment binding Israel to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories according to the U.N. resolutions, to stop the construction of settlements, and abide by international laws until a comprehensive settlement of the dispute is reached. But for the United States to make such a pledge while Israel is declaring its intentions to devour the occupied Arab territories, really means that the United States is authorising Israel to use American-made weapons for the purpose of expansion and aggression. This is tantamount to an American partnership in all Israel's designs and aggression in the Arab area.

The American declaration to guarantee Israel's superiority without any conditions dictates on the Arab states, particularly the Gulf states, to review their policy of purchasing weapons from the United States, because it is unreasonable for these states to buy weapons from a country declaring in advance that it will guarantee Israel's military superiority in terms of quality and quantity.

War over Latin America

High O'Shaughnessy reports on the silent trade war being fought for a share of the Latin American market.

The constant silent war between the Arabs and Israel for trade advantage and political influence in Latin America is heating up.

In a few weeks' time, Mr. Gideon Pat, the Israeli trade minister, will start a South American tour to Venezuela, Chile, Uruguay and Brazil. With him will go a team of leading Israeli industrialists with a brief to open new markets for Israeli products at a time when Israel is becoming worried about the reliability of its principal trading partner, the EEC.

Israelis see Latin America as an increasingly important trading partner while they face a squeeze in Europe. With the impending accession of Spain and Portugal to the EEC, Israel will clearly have an increasingly tough job selling its citrus and other farm products to the EEC. Although Latin America is hardly a market for such items, it could absorb more Israeli manufacturers and thus help Israel's overall trade account.

To help this process, Zim, the Israeli shipping line, for example, is to experiment with a service to South America's Pacific ports, while Israeli banks have been expanding in the region.

Israel has in the past had much success as a supplier to modern

weapons to Latin America. There is no doubt that the Israelis would like to increase this trade.

Over the past decade, Israel has taken advantage of decisions by European governments and the Carter administration to hold back arms supplies from some Latin American regimes because of their violations of human rights.

For instance, Israeli companies have sold Arava aircraft, capable of carrying cargo and dropping paratroops, to air forces from Guatemala to Bolivia. They have supplied missiles to the Pinochet government in Santiago and were delivering weapons to General Somoza in Nicaragua almost up to the day of his overthrow in 1979.

Today, their relationship to the Guatemala government, which is still looked on askance by Washington, is particularly close. In exchange for Israeli arms, it is expected that Guatemala will become a small but useful regular supplier of oil to a country which often has difficulty in getting supplies.

Israel is also hoping to sell Kfir jet fighters — its version of the Mirage 5 — to Ecuador and other countries. Last year, the Reagan administration lifted the U.S. ban on Israel's use of General Electric engines in aircraft bound for some South American markets.

The advent of the Sandinista government in Nicaragua was a

blow to the Israelis. It not only looked unsympathetically on Tel Aviv, as the former Somoza regime's arms supplier, but also lost no time in seeking money and friendship in the Arab World.

But the Israelis are hoping to recoup that loss by pushing arms sales to other embattled Central American Governments, perhaps selling the hardware which Congress and public opinion in the U.S. prevents Washington itself from supplying.

Apart from arms Israel, as a non-regional member of the Inter-American Development Bank, is also hoping to cash in on large aviation, construction and agricultural projects where Israeli technicians have been giving important assistance in many countries. Israeli exports to the region, despite recent growth, are not massive — some \$140 million in 1980.

The financial, commercial and political muscle is more on the Arab side. Throughout Latin America there are large and influential communities of people of Arab and notably Palestinian descent, which together are estimated to comprise perhaps 5 per cent of the region's population.

What was at the beginning of the century a small immigration of labourers or petty entrepreneurs has now blossomed into a generation which includes generals, ministers and Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala, the President of Colombia.

Rising prices and spare Arab cash have strengthened the Arab position in Latin America further. Brazil, for instance, has mounted a successful campaign to offset its massively increased bill for Iraqi oil with exports to the Arab World.

These have included a range of goods and services from frozen chickens to armoured vehicles, used by Iraq in its war against Iran, to oil prospecting, and the building of a railway in Mesopotamia.

The Arab Latin American Bank (Arabank), founded in 1977 with a headquarters in Lima, has produced figures to show that Latin America's imports from the Middle East grew between 1961 and 1980 from 8.1 per cent to 10.8 per cent of total imports.

Middle Eastern imports from Latin America, on the other hand, rose from 0.2 per cent to 15.8 per cent over the same period, a staggering 79-fold increase.

At the same time, according to Arabank, Arab banks provided more money for Latin America through the Eurocurrency markets than they did to Africa, Asia and the Pacific combined. The provided \$10 billion for the region, compared with \$8.9 billion to the other areas in the 17 months to last May.

Arabank has become a symbol of a fast growing relationship between the two areas. It counts a number of powerful Arab fin-

social institutions, including the Arab Banking Corporation of Bahrain and the Libyan Arab Foreign Bank, among its shareholders.

Mr. Werner Makowski, one of its two general managers, reporting record earnings of \$20.2 million last year, said recently in London: "Arab finance is today interested in much more than real estate in Latin America. It is looking to help to develop the big natural resources that the region contains."

This increasing economic and financial relationship is being reflected in political attitudes among Latin American governments. Whereas, in immediate post-war years, the Latin American vote at the United Nations, often under U.S. prompting, was regularly pro-Israeli, today the pattern is less predictable.

Not only are the communist and left-wing states such as Cuba and Nicaragua pro-Arab, but the states which have much to lose from Arab hostility, such as Brazil, are modifying their enthusiasm for Israel. Simultaneously the Palestine Liberation Organisation is extending its diplomatic activities throughout the region.

In future, the Israelis may have to run very hard if they are not to lose friends and influence in Latin America.

— Financial Times news feature

Gaullists prepare for next round

Gaullist leaders know they are a long way from lasting power again, writes David Housego.

PARIS: If you had not known that Mr. Francois Mitterrand had won last year's presidential election, you might sometimes have thought at the Gaullist RPR party convention at Toulouse last month (January) that it was the Gaullists who were the victors.

After being re-elected as party leader with 99.1 per cent of the vote, Mr. Jacques Chirac, mayor of Paris and unsuccessful presidential candidate last May, took his curtain call with his hands raised above his head in the traditional Gaullist salute. The 15,000 party members packed in the hall thundered their applause, the Gaullist emblem — the "Croix de Lorraine" — was lifted high, and Mr. Chirac led his supporters in a lusty rendering of the Marseillaise.

With the exception of the communists, no other political party in France has such a knack of turning a political event into a family carnival. At least for the political right, Mr. Chirac has an unrivalled talent for showmanship and playing to a crowd.

But the Gaullist leaders are under no illusion that it will be a long haul before they get another sniff of power. However, recent by-elections in which the centre and the right scored four unexpected victories have been a comfort in that they demonstrated that those who deserted the Gaullist fold last year rather than vote for Mr. Valéry Giscard d'Estaing have now returned.

In the continuing rivalry between Mr. Chirac and Mr. Giscard, the by-elections have also shown that the former president has even less grass roots support now than last May.

Surprisingly perhaps, they no longer think that there is much political mileage to be gained in attacking nationalisation. Their strategy is based on the belief that the communists intend a radical transformation of French society and institutions, which will prove abhorrent to the traditional, Catholic majority of the country.

An extremist evocation of this threat was given by Mr. Bernard Pons, secretary general of the party, who told the Congress that the choice ahead was between a Marxist and a republican regime. The roar of applause in response showed that many other Gaullists see it in these stark terms.

In line with this view, the party aims to become the focus of opposition for all those outside the socialist camp. It is likewise Mr. Chirac's goal to establish himself as the national leader of this movement, particularly over the rival claims of Mr. Giscard.

In the eyes of the party faithful, he was crowned at Toulouse not only as leader of the Rassemblement Pour la République (RPR) but of the whole opposition — "the youngest, the most eminent, the most experienced and the most dynamic of statesmen in the Western world," as one of his colleagues blatheringly described him from the platform.

In his conference speech, Mr. Chirac sought to live up to his role of statesman and aspiring presidential candidate for the right, reviewing the domestic and international issues of the day with statesmanlike moderation. For

the moment populist demagoguery is being left to other party firebrands.

With the prospect of power so distant, a major problem for the party is to mobilise and sustain the enthusiasm of the rank and file. Next to the communists, the RPR is the largest and best organised political party. It has 600,000 members compared with the socialists' 250,000. As a populist movement appealing to nationalism, the RPR draws support from all classes. But after 23 years in power, the party has let its organisation slip. In the last legislative elections, its share of seats in the National Assembly slumped from 153 to 80.

Mr. Michel Giraud, a senior figure in the RPR, reminded members at the convention that the socialists' success had been built by expanding their youth membership, and then by a 10-year grass roots campaign which brought them gains in the cantonal and municipal elections before victory in the presidential elections.

It is a lesson the RPR seems to be taking to heart. For the first time at a Gaullist congress, the hall was not decorated with the picture of General de Gaulle and the elder barons of the party, like Mr. Michel Debre or Mr. Couve de Murville, seem to be stepping aside.

The rank and file were drawn into the running of the conference far more than in the past. A number of workshops were organised to debate the issues of most popular concern, such as trades unions, the media, and private schooling.

But if the RPR is seeking to be more democratic, it has not yet succeeded in drafting the younger generation of leaders which it needs.

In his platform speech, Mr. Chirac set out the broad lines of a programme without being trapped into giving details. His starting point was that the socialists' victory had demonstrated a real desire for change towards a more humane, less technocratic government, with more popular participation. Many of the Gaullists' interests, such as higher investment to spur growth, the priority of unemployment, work sharing in industry, are shared with the socialists.

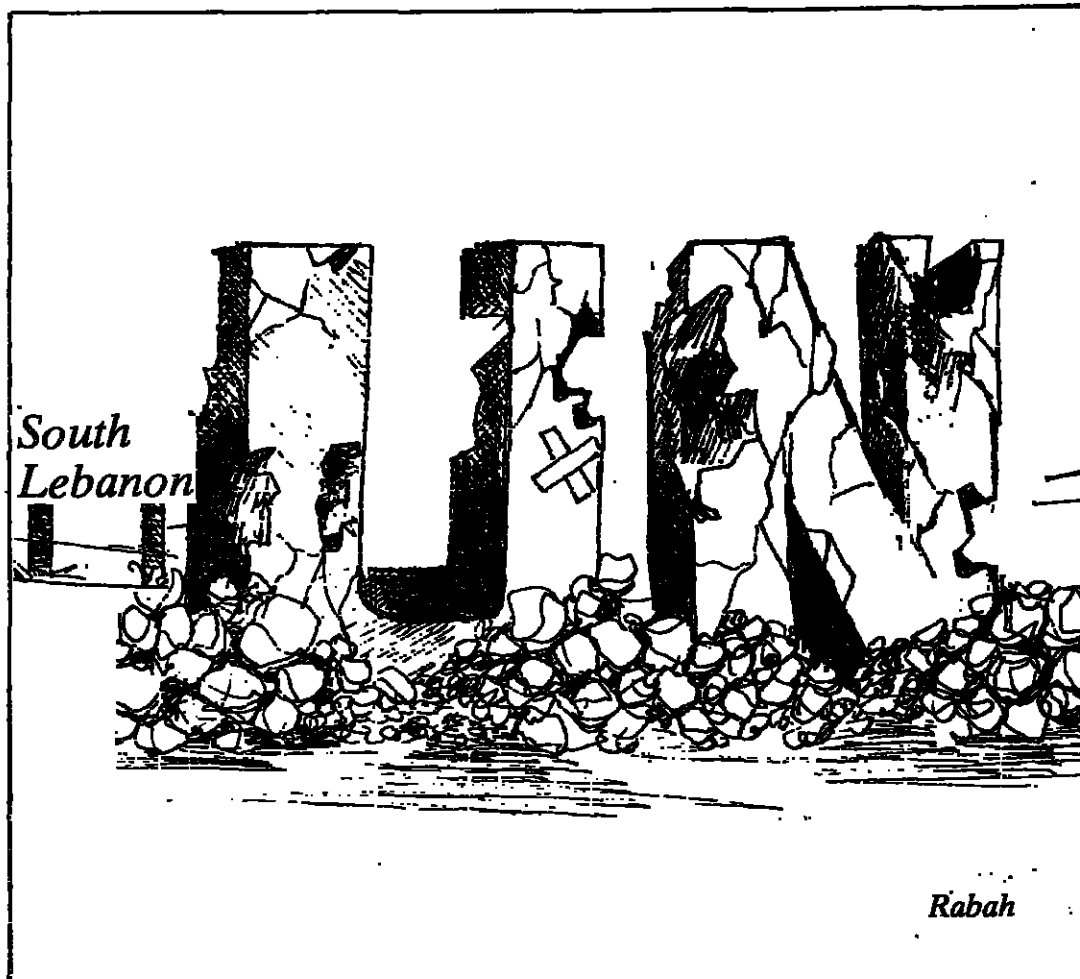
However, the Gaullists distance themselves from the socialists in wanting to hold down deficit spending and reduce taxation and controls on industry. They attack the socialists most fiercely for allowing communists into the government and for threatening private (normally Catholic) education and health.

It is far from certain that the different and often divided factions outside the socialist camp will accept Mr. Chirac as the spokesman for the right and centre.

The RPR is drifting to the right partly as a result of an influx of new recruits, many of whom are from the extreme right with its tradition of violent agitation against the communists. As a populist figure, Mr. Chirac has more chance than other leaders of neutralising the far right's influence.

But his appeals for moderation are a recognition of how close to the surface lies the danger of political violence.

— Financial Times news feature



Greek economy: Optimism v reality

By Neocosmos Tzallas
 Reuters

ATHENS — Four months after coming to power in Greece, the socialist government is having difficulties putting flesh on the bones of its ambitious economic and social programme, economists say.

Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu has said he believes Greece can be nudged out of recession without adverse effects on the balance of payments or the already high 25 per cent inflation rate through greater control over key sectors of the economy and narrowing the gap between the high and low paid.

But economists say the government's failure to spell out specific details of how these policies will be implemented is causing uncertainty among potential foreign and domestic investors.

Economic realities have also forced Mr. Papandreu to back-pedal on plans to "socialise" a large part of private industry, they said.

They believe that lack of a clear-cut economic policy at home and the determination of the government to follow an independent foreign policy, most of the time out of step with its European Economic Community (EEC) partners and the United States, could add to its difficulties.

The opposition conservative daily Kathimerini recently quoted Mr. Papandreu as telling a ministerial cabinet meeting that the economic situation was like a nightmarish course through a minefield.

Economists say Greece is expected to have a budget deficit of 150 billion drachmas (\$2.5 billion) this year. At the same time, according to the bank of Greece, total foreign borrowing needs will rise

to about \$1.6 billion from 1.2 billion last year.

The government's task is also being complicated by what have come to be known as the "green guards." This is the name given to zealots of the ruling party who, according to Opposition Leader Evangelos Averoff-Tossitsas, have established a reign of terror as they interfere in the ministries and states organisations.

Named after the colour of the Panhellenic Socialist movement (PASOK) banner, the green guards are reported to insist that the party line is followed firmly by ministers and the civil service.

So instead of the much-vaunted first 100 days programme which the Greeks were told would cure many of their ills, the country's first socialist government has so far announced only a series of palliative measures to cope with specific problems.

These measures include tighter controls on credit to industry and commerce, the narrowing of the gap between high and low income groups by indexing wage increases to inflation, and introduction of tax adjustments that will benefit those earning less than 80,000 drachmas (\$1,330) a month.

Mr. Papandreu has said credit controls will aim to prevent savagely being channelled into speculative investment.

The future direction of bank credit, he said, will be set by the government and implemented by a reorganised Bank of Greece, to ensure that lending conforms to government economic policy and financing regulations. The state already controls about 80 per cent of the banking sector, and, through these banks, influences the greater part of the economy.

About 20 branches of foreign banks here and three Greek private banks are to be closely scrutinised so that their activities do

not run counter to the national interest.

Mr. Papandreu plans a system of criteria for approval of foreign investment proposals, such as employment stimulation, export promotion and technological development.

But the absence so far of specific details of these plans has made Greek and foreign investors cautious, economists say.

As a result, Mr. Papandreu has had to warn the private sector that if it continued to hesitate, the government, through its state-controlled investment banks, would go ahead with productive investment in their place.

The only takeover proposals announced so far concern the subsidiaries of the leasing U.S. oil company Exxon, including an oil refinery and a petrochemicals complex. Talks on their nationalisation are expected to start later this year.

For other key industries, such as mining, shipyards, steel, and cement, the government is introducing a system of supervisory councils. These will comprise representatives of the companies' management and labour force, the state and local government.

The aim will be to bring corporate planning and policy into line with the government's objectives. But again, the economists say, the exact powers of the councils have not been defined.

The government also plans to review the circumstances of about 100 major enterprises and a larger number of smaller firms on the verge of bankruptcy.

Those not found viable for economic or social reasons will be allowed to collapse, and the rest given financial aid to carry on, subject to social control by participation of labour and local government in future management.

Want some Candu?

By John Rogers
 Reuters

OTTAWA — A change in policy by the Canadian government has added Egypt and other Arab countries to the list of badly-needed potential export markets for the country's heavy-water Candu nuclear reactors.

But any sales to the Middle East are several years away, officials of the contract-starved nuclear industry say.

Immediate hopes are pinned on selling four Candus to Mexico and three to South Korea. Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau has visited both countries to add political weight to the bids.

At the same time, these prospects have revived argument over whether Canada, which prides itself on its role as a peacemaker, should be selling nuclear reactors — despite stringent safeguards — to anyone.

The government ended a six-year-old refusal to sell Candus to the unstable Middle East when Energy Minister Marc Lalonde toured Egypt, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia last month.

Egypt and Canada initiated an agreement for peaceful nuclear cooperation this week, paving the way for possible future Egyptian purchases of Candus and Canadian uranium to fuel them.

The signing is not due until May, but hostile reaction from the small but vocal anti-nuclear lobby was swift.

Lobby spokesman Gordon Edwards said Canada was being irresponsible in selling more reactors "at a time when the threat of nuclear war is increasing... and especially to try to sell them in the tinder box of the Middle East."

The key to unlocking Canada's 1976 ban on nuclear sales to the area was Egypt's ratification of the United Nations Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) last year.

External Affairs Minister Mark MacGuigan said Canada saw Egypt as "the principal peacemaker" in the Middle East, but said Canada was also willing to consider peaceful nuclear cooperation with other countries in the region.

Government spokesmen rule out Israel as a potential buyer because it has not signed the NPT. They also dismiss suggestions that the anticipated sales to Egypt should worry Israel, because of Canada's safeguards requirements.

Though no early sales to the Middle East are in sight, the accord with Egypt boosted morale for the Candu's manufacturer, the government-owned Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL).

It is three years since the company signed an agreement with a foreign buyer, Romania, and Canadian companies are frustrated by Romanian delays in signing follow-up equipment contracts to get construction started, industry sources say.

The fiercely-contested Mexican contract, which could be worth more than two billion dollars to Canada, is not due to be awarded until the end of this year.

One Candu reactor in South Korea, at Wolsung, is on schedule for completion by the end of December. But the bigger new Korean deal for which Canada is hoping will not be decided until late next year, the sources said.

Canada tightened its safeguards requirements after India used Canadian-supplied equipment to explode an atomic bomb in 1974, and Pakistan refused to sign the NPT.

Spokesman for the government and the industry reject claims by the anti-nuclear lobby that Candus — which use natural uranium as fuel rather than enriched uranium, which is needed for weapons — can be used to fuel nuclear weapons.

"They could not be adapted to make nuclear fuel by a country which accepts our requirements. It would be impossible," says Roy MacLaren, Mr. Lalonde's parliamentary secretary.

"Another consideration would be that, if the intention is to build a nuclear weapon, there are cheaper ways," he adds.

But anti-nuclear activists say a country which wanted bombs and nuclear electricity could use the Candu for both. They say the fact that the Candu can be refuelled without being closed, unlike light-water reactors, makes it impossible to safeguard.

"The spent fuel, containing plutonium, can be removed from the reactor core and diverted for military purposes at any time, without warning," says Dr. Edwards.

The anti-nuclear lobby says Canada should not be selling to what it calls "ruthless military dictatorships" in Argentina and South Korea, both of which are building Candus, while the government says they have signed all the treaties and must be trusted.

Handwritten note in Arabic script: "هذا بيان صحفي"

ECONOMY

Iraq calls for urgent OPEC meeting

MANAMA (A.P.) — Iraq pressed Friday a call for an emergency meeting of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) conference before the end of this month to "adopt suitable measures" against Iran's undercutting of OPEC benchmark prices.

"The Iranian moves endanger OPEC and everything it worked for in past years," oil minister and Iraqi Revolution Command Council Member Taleh Abdel Karim told the Iraqi news agency.

He warned that unless the pro-

posed meeting came out with "solutions guaranteeing the rights of all OPEC members" Iraq is "well capable of adopting measures to protect its own interests."

"Our call for an emergency meeting emanates from our extreme concern that the present situation must be dealt with in the correct OPEC framework," Mr. Abdel Karim said. "It does not mean at all that we do not possess the ability to adopt on our own the right decisions capable of guaranteeing Iraq's rights," he added

without elaboration.

The Iraqi minister accused battlefield enemy Iran of pursuing a policy of price reductions, easy credit and barter terms "in a desperate attempt to increase oil exports and prop up its collapsing economy."

"The current slump in oil demand and can not justify individual and futile attempts (at increasing crude sales), which only serve to hurt committed OPEC members and to create unnecessary confusion in the oil market," Mr.

Abdel Karim said.

He said that industrialised nations were using their tremendous reserves of petroleum to threaten the very existence of OPEC at a time of stagnant market conditions.

"Because of all this, Iraq has called for an extraordinary OPEC ministerial meeting before the end of this month to consult on current conditions and indicators, with a view to coordinating stands and adopting necessary measures," he said.

"Iran's official decision to undercut prices is a clear violation of the last OPEC ministerial conference in Abu Dhabi, which fixed the price of Iranian light at \$34.20 and Iranian heavy at \$32.30," Mr. Abdel Karim said.

"The latest OPEC decision to unify light benchmark price at \$34 was one of the most difficult in its history," Mr. Abdel Karim added.

"It required sacrifices on the part of most members to support some members whose exports declined in a way affecting their economic and political stability," he said.

Iran this month twice shaved a dollar from the prices agreed by OPEC, according to industry sources in London.

The sources say the current glut could be bigger than they thought,

U.S. output declines by 3%

WASHINGTON (A.P.) — Production at factories and mines in the United States fell 3 per cent in January — the biggest drop since spring 1980 and an indication the recession was still deepening last month, according to new government figures.

The decline in national output was the largest of six monthly drops in a row and left production one percentage point below the lowest point of the 1980 recession, the Federal Reserve Board report said.

The new decrease reflected "continued economic weakness as well as sharply curtailed work schedules resulting from the severe January weather," the report said.

"Declines in January were again widespread with the largest drops occurring in the production of autos, construction supplies and

production cutbacks have accelerated in recent months after a long period of sluggish sales left many industries with big stockpiles of unsold goods. And the government reported last week that retail sales fell 1.1 per cent further in January, leaving the sales rate barely above the level of one year earlier.

On the other hand, the government also reported last week that U.S. companies' inventory backlogs declined 0.4 per cent in December, the first drop since the 1975 recession. And that decline indicated that businesses were whittling down their stocks, a necessary step before full production could be resumed and laid-off workers called back.

Many economists, including those in the administration, expect at least modest economic recovery after spring. But they also say the unemployment rate could rise above January's 8.5 per cent before then.

The new Federal Reserve report said January was another bad month for the severely troubled U.S. auto industry.

"Auto assemblies, at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 3.6 million units — the lowest rate in more than two decades — were about 22 per cent below the December rate," the report said.

As has been typical in recent months, the only major category that didn't decline in January was defence and space equipment production. Defence output rose very slightly.

U.S. dollar loses ground

LONDON (R) — The dollar lost ground against other major currencies on foreign exchange markets Friday as dealers trimmed some of its earlier gains.

The Japanese yen was especially strong, climbing to around 230 to the dollar from Thursday's closing level of 235.30 on what one dealer said was strong demand from the United States.

The West German mark also

gained, with dealers in Frankfurt quoting it at 2.3570 after it closed at 2.3670 Thursday.

The pound sterling and Swiss franc also did a bit better against the dollar as dealers reported that the market sentiment was that the U.S. currency might have risen too far because of the belief that U.S. interest rates would remain high.

Gold, which fell in New York on

Thursday to its lowest level since November, 1979, edged higher to about \$370 an ounce by midday, a gain of about 50 cents on the New York price.

Gold sales by the Soviet Union, which has recently been raising large amounts of hard currency, were cited by dealers as the main reason behind the weakness in gold prices.

De Lorean calls in receivers

LONDON (R) — U.S. entrepreneur John De Lorean called in receivers for his motor company Friday in a final attempt to keep his luxury sports car in production after the British government refused him any more finance.

The government, which has ploughed almost \$80 million (\$150 million) into the company, has ruled out any further aid for the troubled Belfast car-makers.

The receivers, Sir Kenneth Cork and Paul Shewell, said between 40 and 50 million was needed within the next five weeks if the Belfast plant is to survive.

Sir Kenneth said a number of high-powered businessmen were interested in the project, but he declined to name them.

International coffee pact stabilises prices

LONDON (R) — Coffee prices are rising on world commodity markets but an international pact aimed at smoothing out supplies should help to diminish the effects on the pockets of coffee drinkers.

The International Coffee Agreement (ICA), which sets export quotas with the aim of stabilising the incomes of producing nations, is widely regarded as one of the few truly effective commodity pacts now in operation and will enable further supplies to be released to the market if prices go on rising.

Since the agreement was reached last September, coffee for immediately delivery has increased from \$1.080 (\$1.990) a tonne to almost \$1.400 (\$2.575).

The price for deliveries around the middle of the year, when frosts can hit Brazil, the world's leading producer, reached a 19-month high in London this week.

The present ICA gives exporters the right to ship 56 million bags, each weighing 60 kg, in 1981-82 and the aim is to keep prices at between \$1.15 and \$1.50 a pound.

If a price of \$1.35 is maintained for 15 days, the total quota is increased by 672,000 bags, and by another one million bags when the 15-day average reaches \$1.40.

The overall quota can keep on rising to a maximum of 60.6 million bags if the \$1.40 level holds. The current 15-day average compiled by the International Coffee Organisation (ICO) is \$1.3173 a pound.

Dealers said, however, that a further increase caused by seasonal factors now affecting the market should trigger the release of extra supplies.

They attributed the current price rises for immediate delivery

to shipping delays and the extra needs of roasters. They said that roasters, who process beans into instant coffee and other products, had run down stocks.

With most processing of coffee down at this time of year, roasters were in the market to top up earlier purchases, the dealers said.

They added that futures prices were high because of nervousness over the prospects of frost from about June onwards in Brazil. Frosts wiped out more than half the Brazilian crop in the mid-1970s, causing prices to soar to more than \$3.50 a pound.

EEC jobless rate up to 9.5%

LUXEMBOURG (R) — The number of people out of work in the European Economic Community (EEC) rose to 10.8 million in January, 26 per cent higher than a year earlier, the EEC statistics office said Friday.

Dole queues grew by 4.5 per cent during January, and at the

end of the month a total of 9.5 per cent of the 10-nation community's workforce was unemployed, the office said.

The highest annual rises were in West Germany, where unemployment increased by around 50 per cent in 1981, the Benelux countries (Belgium, Netherlands

and Luxembourg) and Britain.

The office said January represented a seasonal high for unemployment, which broke through the 10 million level at the end of last year. But even seasonally adjusted figures showed a rise of over one per cent compared with December.

Offshore rigs: Dangerous quest for oil

LONDON (R) — The international search for oil by countries seeking to lessen dependence on OPEC pricing and supply policies is taking a heavy toll in lives lost and in equipment.

Since January 1979, a dozen rigs have sunk, capsized, collapsed or caught fire as exploration has pushed into deeper and more difficult international waters.

The London Institute of Underwriters says insurance claims are increasing in frequency and amounts.

A spokesman for Lloyd's Underwriters Association said, however, it was unlikely that any special conditions would be attached to rig insurance or that premiums would rise as a result of the latest disaster, the loss of the Ocean Ranger exploration rig which

went down 175 miles off Newfoundland on Monday with a crew of 84.

The Ocean Ranger, a semi-submersible exploration platform built in 1976 by Mitsubishi Heavy Industries in Japan, was insured for a total of \$86.5 million, the Lloyd's spokesman said.

One million dollars of this insurance risk was borne by its owners, Ocean Drilling and Exploration Company of New Orleans. 60 million was placed through an industry group, Oil Insurance Ltd., and the remaining \$25.5 million through the international market.

Lloyd's underwriters carried part of \$16.5 million risk, the spokesman said.

Lloyd's register lists more than 600 mobile drilling rigs in operation

or under construction around the world, drilling in places from offshore China to the British North Sea.

Given the number of rigs operating, the rate of losses was not surprising, the Lloyd's spokesman said.

The worst single oil exploration accident occurred in March 1980, when the Alexander Kieland capsized in Norwegian North Sea waters with the loss of 123 lives.

China, which Tuesday invited bids from Western countries interested in exploring what industry sources said could be a promising offshore oil-bearing zone, lost 72 men when a rig collapsed in Bohai Bay late in 1979.

The Ocean Ranger was seeking oil in the Hibernia field, which

industry sources said may prove a significant new source of crude and help the West tilt the balance of power in the energy market against OPEC — the 13-member Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

Oil prices rose from around three dollars a barrel to above \$10 between 1973 and 1974, and took off again early in 1979, when they were around \$13 a barrel. The official Saudi Arabian benchmark crude rate is now \$34 a barrel, although a world oil glut has depressed spot market prices below this figure.

Output from countries outside OPEC is expected to exceed production by the organisation's members this year, for the first time in 20 years.

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Government bonds were firm Friday but trading in equities was lack lustre, dealers said. At 1500 the F.T. index was down 0.4 at 561.8.

The strength of sterling against the dollar and the higher opening in New York bonds helped push U.K. long dated government bonds as much as 3/4 point higher. Short maturities were held back by government broker supplies of the exchequer 13-1/4 per cent 1987 "TAP" stock but added 1/2 point on the day.

Equities were featured by firm bank shares, with Lloyds adding 13p to 483 after full year results up to expectations, dealers added.

Changes in other leading equities rarely exceeded a penny or two in either direction. However, Thorn firmed 10p on light turnover helped by a shortage of paper and Turner and Newall recovered 3p of Thursday's falls.

Blue Circle gave up a further 6p on concern over its Mexican interests following Thursday's Mexican government decision to allow the peso to float freely.

Sine Darby fell 2p to 63 after full year figures. Insurances were weak, with eagle star off 6p at 372 following Thursday's wide fluctuations.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One sterling	1.8585/95	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.2139/42	Canadian dollars
	2.3568/70	West German marks
	2.5890/5900	Dutch guilders
	1.8785/8800	Swiss francs
	40.225/240	Belgian francs
	5.9925/75	French francs
	1260.40/90	Italian lire
	332.20/35	Japanese yen
	5.7475/90	Swedish crowns
	5.9420/40	Norwegian crowns
	7.7440/70	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	369.40/370.00	U.S. dollars

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE

JORDAN TELEVISION

CHANNEL 3

6:30	Koran
6:50	Cartoons
7:10	Rainbow
7:30	Buck Rogers
7:50	Local Programme
8:10	Local Programme on Agriculture
8:30	News in Arabic
8:50	Arabic Series
9:10	Arabic Series
9:30	Arabic Feature Film
11:00	News in Arabic
11:10	Arabic Feature Film Continues

CHANNEL 6

6:00	French Programme
7:00	News in French
7:30	News in Hebrew
7:45	Varieties
8:00	News in Arabic
8:30	M.A.S.H.
9:10	Doctor
9:30	Saturday Variety Show
10:00	News in English
10:15	Feature Film: Midnight

JORDAN RADIO

835 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM

7:00	Sign on
7:01	Morning Show
7:30	News Bulletin
7:40	Morning Show
8:00	News Summary
8:30	External Jerusalem
11:00	Sign off
12:00	News Headlines
12:05	Pop Session
12:30	News Summary
13:05	Radiophonic
14:00	News Bulletin
14:10	Instrumentals
14:30	Over a Cup of Tea
15:00	Concert Hour
16:00	News Summary
16:30	Instrumentals
16:30	Old Favorites
17:00	Melody Time
17:30	In Concert
18:00	News Summary
18:30	Play of the Week
19:00	News
19:30	Top Twenty
20:30	Classical Music

BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1413 KHz

GMT

04:00	Newsdesk 04:30 Backtracking 04:45 Financial News 4:55 Reflections 05:00 World News: British Press Review 05:15 About Britain 05:30 New Ideas 05:40 Book Choice 05:45 The World Today 06:00 Newsdesk 06:30 Terry Wogan's Album Time 07:00 World News: News about Britain 07:15 From the Weeklies 07:30 Music for Harpsichord 07:45 Network U.K. 08:00 World News: Reflections 08:15 Peaches' Choice 08:30 Rhythm 'n' Roots 09:00 World News: British Press Review 09:15 The World Today 09:30 Financial News 09:45 Look Ahead 09:45 Science in Action 10:15 About Britain 10:30 O Henry 11:00 World News: News about Britain 11:15 New Ideas 11:25 The Week in Wales 11:30 Meridian 12:00 Radio Newsworld 12:15 Anything Goes 12:45 Sports Round-up 13:00 World News: Commentary 13:15 Network U.K. 13:30 Opera Gallery 13:45 Strictly Instrumental 14:15 The Instrument Makers 14:30 Rhythm 'n' Roots 15:00 Radio Newsworld 15:15 Saturday Special 16:00 World News: Commentary 16:15 Saturday Special 17:00 News Summary, Saturday 17:45 Sports Round-Up 18:00 World News: News about Britain 18:15 Radio Newsworld 18:30 Play of the Week: Ten Little Indians 19:30 Terry Wogan's Album Time 20:00 World News: Commentary 20:15 Goods Books 20:30 The Ages of Man 21:15 Twentieth Century Folk 21:30 People and Politics 22:00 World News: From Our Own Correspondent 22:30 New Ideas 22:40 Reflections 22:45 Sports Round-up 23:00 World News: Commentary 23:15 Letterbox 23:30 Meridian
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VOICE OF AMERICA

GMT

05:30	The Breakfast Show: news on the hour and 28 min. after each hour 7:00 Weekend 18:00 Special
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English: news/words and their stories, feature, short stories 18:30

New York, New York 19:00 News and This Week 19:30 Press Conference USA 20:00 Special English: news/words and their stories 20:15 Music USA (Jazz) 21:00 Weekend

AMMAN AIRPORT

ARRIVALS:

8:00	Cairo (EA)
8:55	Agaba
9:00	Cairo
9:30	Jeddah
9:40	Dhahran
9:45	Kuwait
9:50	Karachi, Dubai
10:00	Doha, Bahrain
10:10	Beirut
10:15	Abu Dhabi
11:05	Abu Dhabi (Swissair)
11:45	Riyadh (Saudi)
17:00	Cairo
17:45	Copenhagen, Athens
17:45	New York, Vienna
18:05	London (BA)
18:05	Rome (Alitalia)
18:50	Copenhagen, Athens (SAS)
20:20	Cairo (EA)
20:30	Beirut (MEA)
20:30	Frankfurt
00:00	Cairo (EA)
01:00	Baghdad
01:15	Cairo
02:00	Baghdad

DEPARTURES:

3:30	Cairo
6:15	Frankfurt (LH)
6:45	Beirut
7:00	Agaba
7:40	Damascus, Paris (AF)
9:00	Cairo (EA)
9:25	Beirut (MEA)
10:00	Frankfurt
11:00	Vienna, New York
11:30	Cairo
11:45	Geneva, Brussels
11:55	Athens, Zurich (Swissair)
12:00	London
12:05	Riyadh (Saudi)
12:30	Paris
13:15	Tripoli, Tunis
19:00	Kuwait
19:30	Jeddah
20:00	Cairo
20:15	Baghdad
20:30	Abu Dhabi, Dubai
21:15	Cairo (EA)

Baghdad 01:15 Cairo (EA)

EMERGENCIES

DOCTORS: Amman: Yahya Al Hajjar — (Al Wahdat) Amin Abdul Jabbar — 2422/36747

Zargha: Tawfiq Kasimiyeh (—)

Irbid: Radwan Al Sa'd — 75871/75854

PHARMACIES:

Amman:	Al Salam — 36730
	Halal — 71110
	Duwanni — 21381
	Shadi — 25655
	Khalaf — 78653
Zargha:	
Irbid:	
Dalal — (—)	
Al Hayah — (—)	
Hisham — 5678	

TAXIS:

Taxi:	44660
Al Neel — 44433	
Tariq — 23024	
Shamsani — 65294	
Asm — 66803	

CULTURAL CENTRES

American Centre — 41520	
British Council — 36147-8	
French Cultural Centre — 37099	
Goethe Institute — 41993	
Soviet Cultural Centre — 24049	
Turkish Cultural Centre — 39777	
Haya Arts Centre — 65195	
Y.W.C.A. — 41793	
Y.W.M.C.A. — 64251	
Amman Municipal Library — 36111	
University of Jordan Library — 84355/84366	

SERVICE CLUBS

Lions Philadelphi Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Grand Palace Hotel, 1.30 p.m.

Lions Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Intercontinental Hotel, 1.30 p.m.

Clubs. Meetings every Tuesday at the Intercontinental Hotel, 2.00 p.m.

PRAYER TIMES

Fajr	4:51
Sunrise	6:14
Dhuhr	11:50
Asr	3:00
Maghreb	5:26
Isha	6:49

CHURCHES

Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic): Jabal Luwadih 37460

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic): Jabal Amman 24590

De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic): Jabal Hussein 66428

Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox): Abadi 23541

Redeemer Church (Church of the Redeemer): Jabal Amman 23885

Armenian Orthodox Church: Ashrafiah 75261

Armenian Catholic Church: Ashrafiah 71331

Amman International Church (Inter-denominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shamsiah 63249

MUSEUMS

Military Museum: Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Sunday to Friday. Closed on Saturdays. Tel. 64240.

Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51760.

Peppercorn Life of Jordan Museum: 100 to 150 year old items such as costumes, weapons, musical instruments, etc. Opening hours: 9.00

a.m. - 5.00 p.m. closed Tuesdays. Tel. 37169

Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qasbi (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. (Friday)

SAUDI RIYAL

Saudi riyal	100.1/110.00.3
Lebanese pound	70.2/70.8
Syrian pound	57.8/58.2
Irqi dinar	684.0/695.6
Kuwait dinar	1206.6/1210
Swiss franc	344/349
Qatari riyal	94.5/94.7

days and official holidays 10.00

a.m. - 4.00 p.m.). Closed on Tuesdays.

Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculpture by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim

LOCAL EXCHANGE RATES

UAE dirham	93.9/94.2
Omani riyal	995/1000
U.S. dollar	345/347
U.K. sterling	634.4/638.2
W. German mark	144.5/145.4
Swiss franc	180.8/181.9
French franc	56.9/57.2

lim countries and a collection of

paintings by 19th Century oriental artists. Muntazah, Jabal Luwadih. Opening hours: 10.00 a.m. - 1.30 p.m. and 3.30 p.m. - 6.00 p.m. Closed on Tuesdays. Tel. 30128

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Ambulance (government)	75111
Civil Defence rescue	61111
Jordan Electric Power Co. (emergency)	36381-2
Municipal water service (emergency)	71125-6-7-8
Police headquarters	39141
Najdah roving patrol rescue police. (English spoken)	24 hours a day for emergency
Airport information (ALIA)	92205/92206
Jordan Television	73111
Radio Jordan	74111

Firstaid, fire, police

Fire headquarters	22099
Cablegram or telegram	18

Telephone:

Information	12
Jordan and Middle East trunk calls	10
Overseas radio and satellite calls	17
Telephone maintenance and repair service	11

MARKET PRICES

Tomatoes	170	120	Local Potatoes	160	110
Eggplant (small)	210	170	Broad Beans	350	300
Potatoes (imported)	120	80	Apples (Golden)	270	200
Marrow (small)	280	200	Apples (Double Red)	270	200
Marrow (large)	180	120	Apples (Starken)	270	200
Cucumber (small)	520	450	Lemons	160	120
Cucumber (large)	400	300	Oranges (Sharpouti)	230	190
Hot Green Pepper	480	400	Oranges (local)	140	100
Sweet Pepper	450	350	Oranges (Valencia)	130	90
Cabbage (imported)	140	100	Cauliflowers (white)	130	100
Onions (dry)	110	70	Cauliflowers (local)	250	200
Green onions	180	120	Bonani	230	180
Spinach	80	50	Carrot	170	120
Coconut (piece)	300	200	Turnips	170	120
Beans	410	350	Grapefruit	130	90
Benanas	260	200	Beet	100	70
Benanas (Mukammar)	225	180	Lettuce (a head)	100	70
Cabbage (local)	110	70	Mandarine oranges	240	180

SPORTS

Olympics television dispute settled

LOS ANGELES (R) — A dispute which could have prevented countries in Europe, North Africa and the Middle East seeing the 1984 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles on television was settled Wednesday, a spokeswoman for the games said here.

She said a cheque for the final instalment of \$12 million to be paid by the European Broadcasting Union for the television rights was expected to arrive at the offices of the Los Angeles Olympic Organising Committee later Wednesday.

The union, which represent 31 countries in Europe, North Africa and the Middle East, had failed to complete its total payment of \$19.8 million by the contract deadline of February 1.

The spokeswoman, Amy Collis, said the amount to be paid was never in dispute and the problem concerned very technical legal problems which she would not define.

She said Olympic officials and union representatives had three days of productive negotiations here last week and the union negotiators then left here for further

talks among themselves.

The union informed the Los Angeles committee their negotiators' discussions had led to an agreement and the final instalment was being sent from a San Francisco bank to the committee headquarters, Collis said.

The European payment of \$19.8 million was well below the sum of \$225 million paid by the ABC Television network for the

U.S. rights.

Los Angeles Olympic officials had hoped at one time to obtain much more money for the European, North African and Middle Eastern rights by charging the countries separately.

But committee officials here said the International Olympic Committee insisted on the Los Angeles officials negotiating solely with the union.

140 countries expected to attend 1988 Seoul Olympics

SEOUL, South Korea (A.P.) — South Korea expects about 140 nations to participate in the 1988 Seoul Olympic Games and up to 400,000 foreign tourists to visit the country in connection with the Olympiad, a top organizer said Thursday.

Kim Yong-Shik, Chairman of the Seoul Olympic Organising Committee, reported to a special Olympic committee of the National Assembly that his committee estimates the number of participating athletes at about 10,000 and the aggregate total of spectators at about four million.

In addition, about 11,000 media people are expected to cover the sports pageant and an additional 13,000 games officials, conference delegates and team officials are likely to come, Kim reported.

The Seoul games, he added, will be held from Sept. 20 through Oct. 5 in that year with 23 events to be contested.

Japan's Nakajima leads at end of 2nd round of Australian Masters Golf

MELBOURNE (A.P.) — Japan's Tommy Nakajima stole the limelight at Huntingdale on Friday in an action-packed second round of the Australian Masters Golf title.

But Victorian Bob Shearer tightened his grip on the winner's cheque. Hours after Shearer shot his second successive 70 to go to a six under the card total of 140 and a three stroke lead which he kept for the rest of the day, Nakajima electrified the gallery with his sensational round.

The 27-year-old crashed his way through the 18 holes in a course record equalling 66.

Nakajima-christened Tommy by local golf authorities who find it hard to come to grips with his Christian name of Tsuneyuki shot an amazing nine birdies in the first 15 holes on the way to equalling the record set by Sydneysider Rodger Davis two years ago.

Nakajima, who started the day at five over, rapidly whittled down the effects of Thursday's 78, despite bogeys at the ninth and 17th.

Nakajima, who started the day at five over, rapidly whittled down the effects Thursday's 78, despite bogeys at the ninth and 17th.

At the ninth he hooked his second shot into the trees while at the 17th his tee shot went into the rough on the right of the fairway.

Through an interpreter Nakajima, who lives close to Tokyo, gave a unique explanation for his remarkable round.

"Last night at the golfers' dinner I got Arnold Palmer's autograph. It made my whole day and lifted me," he said.

The meeting of the pair Thursday night was a happier event for Nakajima than their only previous association—when they played the last round of the 1978 British Open at St. Andrews and Nakajima putted into a bunker.

For Shearer, his sights are set on bridging a five-year home town winning drought.

On his form in the first two rounds, Shearer only needs to maintain Friday's consistency to win his first major tournament in Melbourne since 1977, when he took out the Colgate Champion of Champions at Victoria course.

There is no doubt Shearer is the in-form player of the high class Masters field—his runner-up role in the Victorian Open at Met-

ropolitan last week proved that.

Shearer did not put a foot wrong Friday and was the only player in the top bracket who did not have a lapse at some stage.

His three-under overnight card remained that way until he birdied the seventh—and he repeated the effort at the 10th.

By the time he reached the 13th, West Australian Lindsay Stephen and Japan's Akira Yabe were up with him on five under, but Stephen dropped out of the race at the next while Yabe held on until the 15th.

He had a number of two putts, some from 48 and 64 metres, and was one of a number of players who said the greens were a lot better than Thursday, although still a little bumpy.

Stephen had a frustrating up and down round which saw him slump from his overnight three under to one under before he recovered to finish with a two round total of 143.

Yabe stayed on his overnight two under until the 10th when he gained some ground before dropping back on the 17th.

He shares the same mark with Noel Ratcliffe (New South Wales), American Mike Colandro and Queensland Mike Ferguson.

Cooney-Holmes fight postponed

NEW YORK (R) — The world heavyweight title fight between Larry Holmes and Gerry Cooney has been postponed until June 11, and champion Holmes may fight another opponent while waiting for Cooney's sailing left shoulder to heal.

The expected announcement that Cooney would not be ready for the original March 15 date with Holmes in Las Vegas came after he had had another medical examination here Thursday by two doctors, John Burgfield and Stephen Ockner.

These doctors, brought in at the insistence of co-promoter Don King, confirmed the findings of Cooney's own physician, Dr. Jeffrey Minkoff—that the unbeaten challenger had a painful shoulder injury.

"We've found that Gerry Cooney has suffered a partial tearing of the muscles in the back part of

his left shoulder," Dr. Burgfield told a press conference. "If he responds (to treatment) as we think he will, he'll definitely be ready to fight on June 11."

King, who has promoted all 11 of Holmes' title defenses since he won the World Boxing Council (WBC) crown in June, 1979, said the champion was seriously thinking of defending against another opponent between now and late April.

King named three possible challengers—Randy (Tex) Cobb, Jimmy Young and Larry Frazier. "I think Randy Cobb is the most deserving contender," King said.

Cobb is the WBC's fifth-ranked contender. Young, a veteran who was outpointed by Muhammad Ali in a 1976 title bout, is number eight, while the relatively unknown Frazier is not among the top 10 contenders.

Two prominent sportsmen in private plane crash

HANOVER, West Germany (R) — Former West German soccer international Uli Hoessner, sole survivor of a plane crash Wednesday night, is under intensive care but is out of danger, his Doctor said Friday.

Hoessner, the 30-year-old business manager of West German champions Bayern Munich, suffered fractures but did not need an operation, Dr. Otmart Trentz said.

The three other men in the twin-engine private plane, who were all killed in the crash, were identified as former Olympic skier Wolfgang Junginger and student Thomas Kupper, the pilot and co-pilot, and sport publisher Helmut Simler.

Junginger, 30, won a bronze medal in the 1974 world cha-

mpionship combination event and finished sixth in the slalom at the 1976 Winter Olympics in Innsbruck, Austria.

The four men were flying from Munich to Hanover for Wednesday night's soccer international between West Germany and Portugal.

The crash occurred in mist on Moorland some 10 km from the runway of Hanover's Langenhagen Airport after the plane had radioed that it was in difficulties, the sports news agency SID said.

Hoessner, Bayern's business manager since 1979, played 35 times for West Germany and was a member of the team which won the 1974 World Cup.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES H. GOREN
1981 by Chicago Tribune

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♦ A J 5
♥ J 8 7
♦ K J 10 9 5
♣ K 10

WEST
♦ 10 9 8 4 2
♥ A 10 5 2
♦ 6
♣ 9 4 2

EAST
♦ 6 3
♥ Q 9 4
♦ A Q 4 2
♣ J 8 6 5

SOUTH
♦ K Q 7
♥ K 6 3
♦ 8 7 3
♣ A Q 7 3

The bidding:

South West North East

1 ♣ Pass 1 ♣ Pass

1 NT Pass 3 NT Pass

Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ten of ♠.

queen. The spade return was won by dummy's jack and the king of diamonds forced the ace. East shifted to a heart. Declarer played low. West won the ace and declarer claimed the rest for an over-trick.

East should have realized that it was futile to return a spade at trick three. He could hope for no more than four or five points in the West hand, so West could not have the two entries necessary to establish and run the spades. Careful analysis would show that only the heart suit offered any chance of defeating the contract.

Specifically, West must hold A-10-x-x of hearts to beat the hand. East must shift to a heart at trick three, but not just any heart. Only one card will do the trick—the nine! That unblocks the suit, as you will see later.

If South plays low, so does West, and dummy's jack wins the trick. When East gets in with the ace of diamonds, he continues with the queen of hearts. Whether or not declarer covers, the defenders must come to three tricks in the suit. With the two diamond tricks already in the bank, that means down one.

Note that it does not help South to play the king of hearts on the nine. West can counter that by allowing the king to win, and again the defenders must come to three heart tricks. Declarer is doomed to defeat no matter what he tries.

Peking to send softball team to Taiwan

TAIPEI (R) — The Taiwan flag will fly and the national anthem will be played at the Women's World Softball Championship here in July, the Chinese-Taipei Softball Association said Thursday.

Commenting on a mainland China objection to the use of the Taiwanese flag and anthem, the association's executive secretary Peng Vin-Hao said: "We will fly our national flag and play our national anthem in accordance with the International Softball Federation's (ISF) regulations and we are sure the ISF will honour its own regulations."

Peng added that the ISF rules required all participating countries to take part in the ceremonies.

An official of the Chinese Sports and Physical Culture Commission told Reuters in Peking Wednesday that China intended to compete in the championship, but the use of the Taiwanese flag and national anthem would be unacceptable to Peking.

Korean alpinists to tackle world's 5th highest peak

KATMANDU, Nepal (A.P.) — A 10-member South Korean climbing expedition arrived Thursday to make final preparations for an assault on 8,481 metre high Mt. Makalu, the world's fifth highest peak.

Team leader Hahn Tak-Young, 44, said the climb — through the tortuous southeast ridge — was a prelude to a planned attack on Everest in two years time. "That's the goal of most mountaineers," Hahn said.

That accomplished, they will have to negotiate a steep ice wall before making their final assault on the summit, planned for May 20.

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هونا يوقا (تمارين في الومي الصبي)
ايام الاثنين والخميس الساعة ٥:٠٠ - ٦:٠٠
ابتداء من الخميس ٨٢/٢/٢٥ ولسته اسابيع / الرسوم ١٢ ديناراً للدوة

فن التمثيل الحديث
ايام الثلاثاء والجمعة الساعة ٥:٠٠ - ٦:٠٠
ابتداء من الثلاثاء ٨٢/٢/٢٣ ولسته اسابيع / الرسوم ١٢ ديناراً للدوة

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Courses at aviation institute

A training course on instructional techniques opened on Feb. 20 at the Queen Noor Civil Aviation Institute. The course will conclude on March 18. Among the participants in the course are trainers from the Jordanian Royal Aviation Academy, trainers from the Alia centre for technical training, trainers from the Queen Noor Civil Aviation institute and employees of the Civil Aviation Department.

A second, English-language training course opened on Saturday at the Queen Noor Civil Aviation Institute, for employees at the Amman Airport. The course will conclude on May 13. Among the participants in the course are Customs Department employees at Amman Airport; passport employees at the airport, who are attached to the Public Security Directorate; employees of the Amman Airport intelligence service; Amman Airport health employees attached to the Health Ministry, and security and protection unit employees at Amman Airport.

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FEATURES

No one troubles 'little America' in Italy

New York vs. U.N.

By Michael Sheridan
Reuters

NAPLES — They call it "little America," the stretch of coastline north of Naples, Italy's most violent city. The name is well-chosen for the area is home for some 8,000 Americans attached to NATO military bases here.

Since the kidnapping of U.S. Brig-Gen. James Dozier by extremist Red Brigades guerrillas in the northern city of Verona last December, Americans in Italy have been warned of the perils of political violence.

Gen. Dozier, freed by Italian police in a spectacular rescue on Jan. 28, was one of only 40 U.S. personnel in Verona, headquarters of Allied Land Forces South.

But in Naples, 5,000 men, including top officers and their families, man four key bases in an area torn by political strife and guerrilla and gang violence. Last year 234 people were killed in the city and the Red Brigades carried out a daring and successful kidnapping of a politician.

"People are more aware of the dangers and they're certainly more conscious and more alert," said a NATO spokesman at the giant Bagnoli base, a stone's throw from the teeming poverty-stricken slums of Naples.

Ever since four-star generals set down with Mafia chiefs in 1943 to work out how to control the liberated areas of southern Italy, the relationship between

Americans and Italians there has been filled with contradictions.

In Naples, an American family can go to the "P.X." or military stores for hot dogs, sweet corn, hamburgers or stereo gear. For entertainment, there's the prime rib special in the officers' dining room on Saturdays and the southern fried chicken special or the happy hour in the main NATO bar on Fridays.

The Harry S. Truman Masonic Lodge No. 649 meets twice a month and the Allied Women's Golf Association can be found every Thursday morning on the golf course.

American servicemen say the myth of "rich Americans" occupying the best housing in the region has long been outdated by rampant Italian inflation.

Only top officers live on the Posillipo Peninsula and the chic downtown areas where the moneyed and frightened Neapolitan middle classes dwell behind barred doors, protected by bodyguards and prowling watchdogs.

Service rent allowances have driven most G.I.'s out of town to the northern strip of coast where whole settlements of military fam-

ilies have grown up in sprawling concrete apartment blocks that mar the crystal blue seashore.

"You've got to realise that many of these guys are of fairly low educational standards. They got sent here, not speaking the language and they want to live near people who are familiar. The result is you've got whole towers and streets full of G.I.'s," said one NATO officer.

With threats of the Red Bri-

gades against NATO, which the brigades describe as the "Pulsing heart of counter-revolutionary imperialism," officers have been told to take precautions.

But most Neapolitans, according to local journalists, see the U.S. presence as a sign of prosperity and security. "We don't give a damn about the Red Brigades or NATO," confided a cab driver outside the base, "but we know when there's money to be made and that's what feeds your

family."

Security sources say, however, that the Dozier kidnapping has signalled an intensive re-examination of security, which many military men feel could be more rigorous.

The four NATO bases are: Headquarters Allied Forces Southern Europe, Headquarters Allied Naval Forces Southern Europe, Naval Striking and Support Forces Southern Europe and Headquarters Allied Air Forces Southern Europe.

In addition, the American Sixth Fleet is based in Naples and its sister port, Gaeta.

Officials will make no comment on security measures. But according to eyewitnesses interviewed in Naples, protection of top officers was stepped up dramatically after the Dozier kidnapping.

One admiral, previously guarded by a solitary detective overnight at his family house on the expensive Posillipo Peninsula, was now followed everywhere by two carloads of armed police who watched over him 24 hours a day, they said.

Officials will acknowledge privately that the security problem is insoluble. Every officer lives off base in private accommodation and most drive to and from work in full uniform.

"If the Red Brigades wanted to pick a target at random they would have no problem because the Americans live in their own closed little world," said a Naples police officer.

Security measures at the bases themselves are tight. Machine-gun nests bar the way at road entrances and everyone entering is rigorously checked by U.S. servicemen and Italian Carabinieri paramilitary police.

Relations with the Communist mayor of the city, where thousands of people still live in appalling conditions after the Nov. 1980 earthquake, are good but the political volatility of the area has not left the military untouched.

Italian employees of the naval support activity base, furious at plans by the Americans to withhold taxes from their previously untaxed pay packets, have picked the base and caused several heated confrontations with G.I.'s.

The Naples column of the Red Brigades, which last summer kidnapped Christian Democratic politician Ciriaco De Mita and held him to ransom, has not been greatly affected by a recent wave of arrests that has struck its northern comrades.

But for one enormous U.S. navy sailor, happily drinking beer in a red-lit "American" bar down by the port, they were not a problem. "Man, I'm more scared of these guys that wanna shake you down for every last cent for a beer and a woman," he complained loudly.

El Salvador: Wooing tourists who prefer to stay away

By Colin McSeveny
Reuters

SAN SALVADOR — In any list of the world's most daunting jobs those of Abraham Mendez and his colleagues at El Salvador's National Tourism Institute would surely come near the top.

Their task is to encourage foreigners to holiday in a land now best known abroad for its daily round of indiscriminate political killings, bomb blasts and gun-battles between government soldiers and leftist guerrillas.

"There is no denying that we have an image problem but I am confident we are at last beginning to halt the slump in the number of visitors to El Salvador," said Mr. Mendez, the institute's deputy general manager.

The enormity of their task is reflected in the statistics graph of their latest bulletin which resembles the ones in cartoons that plummet out of sight.

In 1978, before the violence mounted, 300,000 people visited El Salvador while provisional figures for 1981 show that this figure has fallen to only 60,000.

As a foreign revenue earner, tourism has far "outstumped" most of the rest of El Salvador's depressed economy, falling to eighth from third position in three years. Tourist revenue was \$20 million in 1978 compared with \$3.5 million last year.

American tourists, put off by press reports of a virtual civil war and the murder of U.S. nuns and lawyers, have proved the least willing to chance their luck in this Central American republic.

Apart from neighbouring countries, the United States until a few years ago was El Salvador's biggest market, providing 45,000 visitors in 1978.

But fewer than 4,000 Americans with their all important dollars arrived for holidays in El Salvador last year and no change in the trend is expected this year.

Mr. Mendez said his country had received a raw deal from the international media and said that no foreign tourist had been killed or holiday centre attacked by guerrillas since the upsurge of violence began.

"You have a greater chance of being killed walking down a New

York street at night but that doesn't prevent tourists from going there," said Mr. Mendez, surrounded by wallposters extolling the beauty of El Salvador.

The tourist attractions of this tiny country with its volcanoes, Mayan ruins, tropical climate and Pacific beaches are obvious.

El Salvador is also well placed between the lucrative North and South American markets with about eight international airlines passing through the country's new airport.

"We are closer to the northeastern states of the U.S. than is most of California," Mr. Mendez said.

He said that the institute had turned increasingly to countries like Brazil, Argentina and Venezuela to fill at least part of the gap left by the virtual complete loss of the American market.

But he said he had not entirely given up hope of a return of U.S. vacationers and the institute is trying to persuade the state department to drop its "no-go" rating from its official travel advisory.

Mr. Mendez said the rating, made in 1979, meant that most American insurance policies were void during the holders stay in El Salvador.

"We all know that some Americans will hardly go out their front door without checking their policies so this is obviously a blow to us," he said.

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

GEALE

VERAB

SMIDOH

UNGATH

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: "O O O O O O O O O O"

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: PEACE MANLY LIBDO SYMBOL

Answer: He couldn't remember—what this word meant—"AMNESIA"



THE BETTER HALF. By Vinson

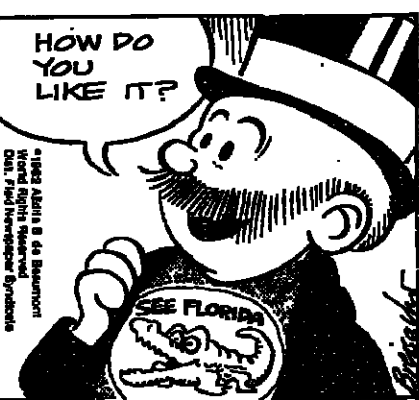
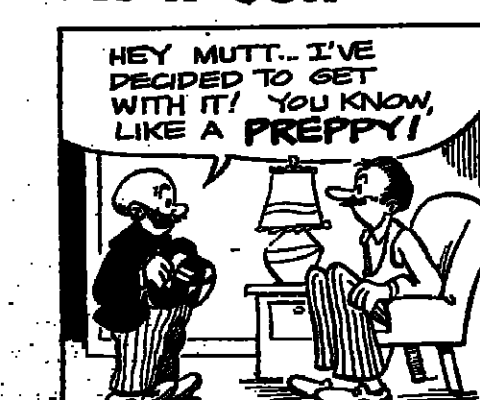


"I don't have to exchange anything. I come early, get a low number and try to scalp it."

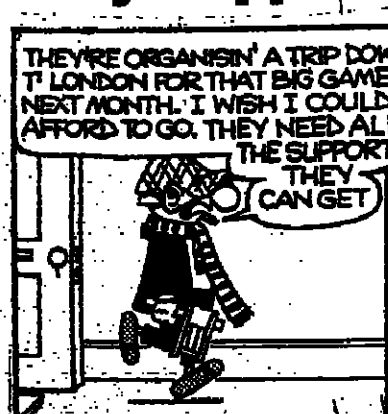
Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, FEB. 26, 1982

YOUR DAILY Horoscope from the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A good day to improve your health and vitality. Take time to engage in your favorite hobby. You can improve your appearance and become more popular with others.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Study your surroundings and make plans for improvement. The afternoon and evening is best spent with congenials.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) A good day for enjoying those pleasures for which you seldom have time. Health treatments can improve your appearance.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Make sure that things at home are running smoothly before you venture forth in outside pursuits. Express happiness.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Use care in motion and avoid possible accident. Visit friends and relatives and have a good time.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Make the improvements that are necessary in the home. Be more willing to join with others in outside activities.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Improve yourself in many ways now that you have more time to think about your affairs. Show that you have wisdom.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Eliminating whatever has kept you from advancing is wise now. Strive to become more efficient in regular routines.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Combining your work efforts with an associate could bring fine results in the future. Catch up with your reading.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Good day to express a fine talent in a public place and gain benefits. Think along more practical lines.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) You may have to travel some in order to obtain the information you need for a plan you have in mind.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Doing whatever will bring greater happiness to you and loved one is wise today. Plan how to become more successful.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Meet with associates and discuss joint projects that could lead to greater success in the future. Show that you are sensible.

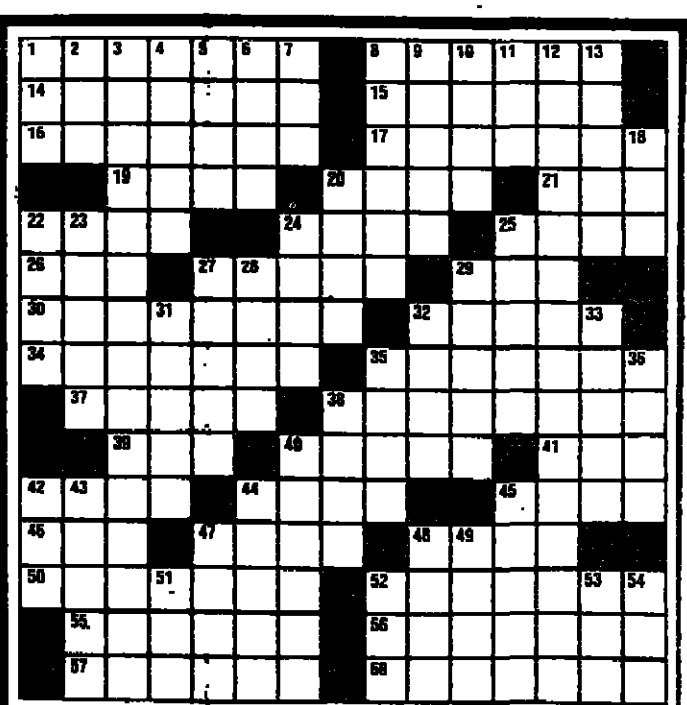
IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will want everything in its proper place, and especially will dislike disharmony in the home. Education should be directed along professional lines such as medicine and law. Don't neglect ethical training.

"The Stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

THE Daily Crossword By Raymond F. Elsner

ACROSS	DOWN
1 The president's men	11 Place
2 Stimulating	12 Speed
3 Sassy	13 Do a figure
4 Bermuda	14 Stormy
5 Admonition	15 Musical of long ago
6 Kindred	16 Slag
7 Nothing more than	17 Seeks
8 To a high degree	18 Officeholders
9 Color	19 Losses
10 Sarnstorm	20 Interest
11 Index mark	21 Aggregate
12 Make over	22 Wings
13 Disenchantment	23 Out of
14 Portray	24 "— great day for..."
25 Prohibit	26 That's — of balcony!
26 Guided missile	27 Lubricated
27 Turbines	28 By — and starts
28 Blinded	29 Thracian king
29 Buys up	30 Buys up
30 Islands in the Pacific	31 Thickets
31 Lawmaking group	32 Beldame
32 Make very angry	33 Implement
33 Devout	34 Space
34 Writer	35 Bombeck
35 Crow call	36 Swag
36 Parseghian	37 La —, Wis.
37 Ocean area	38 Lincoln
38 Circle or sanctum	39 Highway sections
39 Black, in Blaritz	40 Armada
40 Thrill of yore	41 Where Ephesus is
41 Young sheep	42 Theater group
42 Woods	43 Relative pronoun
43 Torpid	44 Engage
44 Bermuda bloom	45 Hunter
45 Mauna —	46 Times of day: abbr.
46 Location of 3D	47 Burmese statesman
47 Alias: abbr.	48 Dunderhead

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:



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WORLD

Reagan blames interest rates, Congress for economic slump

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan has refused to predict when the U.S. economy would pull out of recession and conceded that high interest rates and congressional resistance to his policies posed serious threats to recovery.

Mr. Reagan's remarks at his first press conference since he released his controversial 1983 budget contrasted with the highly optimistic economic forecasts he and his advisers have been making over the past few months.

The president, Treasury Secretary Donald Regan and Murray Weidenbaum, chairman of the council of economic advisers, have repeatedly said they expected the economy to start rebounding this spring and grow vigorously in the summer and autumn.

But in a televised 42-minute press conference Thursday, Mr. Reagan refused to speculate on exactly when the recovery would begin or when interest rates would start falling.

"I'm just not going to be pinned down on a date," he said.

U.S. interest rates, which rose to 17 per cent this week, have been a constant source of irritation to America's allies, who have complained that money is being attracted away from their economies into the United States.

"High interest rates present the greatest single threat today to a healthy, lasting recovery," the president said.

Many critics have blamed the high interest rates on the Federal Reserve's tight, anti-inflationary monetary policy.

But Mr. Reagan took pains to express confidence in the independent central bank and its chairman, Paul Volcker, with whom he conferred on Monday.

"I have confidence in the announced policies of the Federal Reserve Board," he said.

The president was less kind to Congress, which has given his \$757.6 billion budget for the 1983 financial year a chilly reception since it was proposed nearly two weeks ago.

Mr. Reagan said it would be foolish to tamper with his programme by raising taxes or reducing defence spending plans, suggestions being seriously explored by members of Congress concerned about the projected deficit of \$91.5 billion for next year.

The president also said that if Congress balked at his request for \$27 billion in cuts in social and other government programmes this year "they can themselves set back the recovery."

Mr. Reagan reiterated his belief that his sweeping programme of tax and budget cuts would eventually revive the economy.

He admitted that he and his advisers were "caught by surprise" by the current recession, which has turned out to be considerably more severe than most economists had been predicting.

But he also said he and his advisers had recently become "cautiously optimistic" about where the U.S. economy was headed.

"We would rather err on the side of caution than err on the side of too much optimism," he said.

The only new economic initiative presented by Mr. Reagan was the announcement that he would soon create a special panel of industry and business experts to find ways to cut the cost of gov-

ernment.

While economic issues dominated the press conference, the president also fielded several questions on foreign policy.

He brushed aside a question on whether he was considering sending U.S. combat troops to El Salvador, where leftist guerrillas are fighting the Washington-backed government.

"Where are no plans to send American combat troops into action anywhere in the world," he said.

Pressed to say what it would take for the United States to become directly involved militarily, Mr. Reagan joked: "Well, maybe if they dropped a bomb on the White House I might get mad."

The president sidestepped all other questions on El Salvador and nearby Nicaragua by saying he would make a speech on that subject in Washington next week before the Organisation of American States (OAS).

The president was also asked what the United States planned to do about Poland, where martial law was imposed last Dec. 13, and about Poland's debt problems.

Last month the U.S. government agreed to pay banks here \$71 million they were owed by Poland in January. At the same time the administration decided not to declare Poland in default on those debts.

He said no decision had been taken yet on what would be done if Poland could not meet its debt obligations in February.

Mr. Reagan also said he was holding back on declaring Poland in default now because to do so "would only make Poland more dependent on the Soviet Union."



Deng Xiaoping

Deng stages reappearance

PEKING (A.P.) — Proclaiming a new "revolution," China's foremost leader Deng Xiaoping appeared securely back in the political arena Friday, pushing for an ambitious overhaul of the world's biggest bureaucracy.

After a five-week absence from public view, Mr. Deng made a grand reappearance Thursday, took to the hustings in the Great Hall of the People and issued an edict of reform: Streamline the government, make it work and make the old guard retire in favour of a new generation.

"We are determined to take it as a revolution," the 77-year-old party vice chairman told Kam-puchean Prince Norodom Sihanouk in a statement reported with fanfare Friday by all Chinese media.

"Of course," he added, "this is a revolution in the administrative structure, not a revolution against anyone," an effort to reassure possibly tens of thousands of government and party functionaries that they won't get the axe for political reasons.

"We now are engaging in reform of our system," Mr. Deng said. "We must do away with bureaucracy, overlapping and overstaffing."

Spanish coup plotters' trial opens

MADRID (R) — The court martial of 32 Spanish officers and one civilian alleged to have been involved in an abortive military coup last year opened at a military barracks Friday amid strict security.

About 500 people including the 17-man military tribunal, defence lawyers, prosecution, journalists and the accused with their relatives, packed the converted warehouses that is serving as a courtroom.

Outside the makeshift courtroom in the army's cartography service barracks on the outskirts of Madrid, heavily armed troops

and para-military Civil Guards patrolled the area and national police guarded access roads beyond the perimeter wall.

Security forces carried out rigorous identity and metal detector checks on all people attending the trial and military police stood guard inside the building.

The president of the supreme council of military justice, Lt. Gen. Luis Alvarez Rodriguez, opened the proceedings and ordered an army lieutenant-colonel to read a summary of the lengthy indictment.

The trial is expected to last between 35 and 40 days.

Salisbury coalition crumbles

SALISBURY (R) — One of two remaining ZAPU Party ministers in Zimbabwe's crumbling coalition said Friday he had decided to quit following the dismissal of party leader Joshua Nkomo over coup plot allegations; the national news agency Zina reported.

It quoted Public Works Minister Clement Muchachi as saying he believed that ZAPU ministers had entered the coalition cabinet as a party so must leave as a party.

"Definitely you will not find me here on Monday," he said in an interview in his office.

One remaining ZAPU minister and two deputy ministers have yet to declare their positions as Zimbabwe's arms scandal continues to unfold.

Mr. Nkomo, minister without portfolio, Transport Minister Josiah Chinamano, Natural Resources Minister Joseph Msika and a ZAPU deputy minister were fired following the discovery of large amounts of illicit weapons on farms connected with ZAPU.

Prime Minister Robert Mugabe accused them of treachery, but stressed that all ZAPU members were not implicated. He said the remaining ZAPU ministers in the 26-man coalition — Mr. Muchachi and Roads Minister Daniel Ngwenya and two ZAPU deputy ministers were free to stay or leave as they or their party wished.

Soviets accuse U.S. of seeking to undermine East-West detente

MADRID (R) — The Soviet Union Friday accused the United States of seeking to jeopardise detente and to transform Poland into a permanent source of tension in Europe.

Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Leonid Ilyichov told the European security conference in Madrid that the goals of the U.S. were "confrontation, escalation of the arms race and the jeopardising of detente..."

"The United States is waging an hysterical, propagandistic campaign to transform Poland into the permanent source of tension in Europe," he told a plenary meeting of the 35-state conference.

He said that by the meeting as a platform for talking only about the military takeover in Poland, the Americans were turning a planned dialogue into a monologue.

The 15-month-old conference, the second follow-up to the 1975 Helsinki conference which set standards for East-West detente and human rights, ran aground as a result of the imposition of martial law in Poland on Dec. 13.

When the meeting reopened on Feb. 9, NATO and other Western officials said no progress could be made until martial law was lifted in Poland.

Corsicans claim responsibility for bombs, say ball is in French government's court

MARSEILLES (R) — Corsican extremists fighting for the independence of their Mediterranean island held a secret news conference here Friday to claim responsibility for 45 bombs and machine-gun attacks across France in the past week.

The Corsican National Liberation Front (FLNC) summoned six reporters to an overnight rendezvous in the underground car park of the Marseilles Hall of Justice to give details of its latest wave of attacks.

The reporters said a FLNC spokesman confirmed the group carried out all of the recent attacks, including a machine-gun assault against a Foreign Legion rest camp on Corsica last Friday which killed one sentry and critically wounded another.

The spokesman said the sentries resisted a FLNC commando sent to damage property at the camp

near the northeast town of Bastia and the commando had no choice but to open fire.

A defence ministry statement Friday said the legionnaires were unarmed and were shot in the back while watching television.

The meeting, at which the four-man FLNC delegation wore masks but proved their identity by set codes, ended controversy over the authenticity of earlier claims of responsibility for the attacks in the name of the FLNC.

A FLNC statement handed out at the news conference said the group was returning to a ceasefire declared shortly before the election of Socialist President Francois Mitterrand last May.

"We want to warn the new French government with the attacks on Corsica and the mainland, which we entirely claim. The ball is now in the government's court," it said.

The FLNC carried out 26 bomb and machine-gun attacks on Corsica and in the southern French cities of Marseilles and Aix-en-Provence last Friday and 19 small bomb attacks around Paris last Wednesday.

The FLNC has waged a six-year campaign of violence to press demands that France grant independence to the Mediterranean island about 200 kilometres south of Marseilles.

The FLNC also wants the European tourist trade to Corsica curtailed, French army units and Foreign Legion troops withdrawn and Corsican language and culture taught in public schools.

The FLNC spokesman rejected the Socialist administration's plan for a special statute granting the island greater autonomy than ever before under 200 years of French rule, including a regional assembly to be elected this summer.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

Reagan denies Haig, Weinberger differ on Mideast policy

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan said Thursday there were no policy differences on the Middle East between Secretary of State Alexander Haig and Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger. Mr. Reagan told a press conference that the two men were in touch with each other during separate foreign trips last week and "there is no difference in policy between them." Press reports particularly on the Weinberger trip to three Arab countries, said the defence secretary appeared to be taking a tougher line than Mr. Haig towards Israel and a more conciliatory approach to Arabs. Apparently referring to these reports, the president said that because of the "overblown way" in which the two trips were treated, he had reassured Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin about U.S. policy. In Los Angeles, Mr. Weinberger told a press conference that reports of a feud between him and Mr. Haig were "just plain wrong."

Sharon: Syria prepares for war

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Defence Minister Ariel Sharon has said Syria was preparing for war. "Syria is preparing for war and I am not talking about rumours but concrete facts," Mr. Sharon told a television interviewer. But he did not elaborate. Asked whether the situation in Lebanon warranted an Israeli attack, Mr. Sharon said: "The situation in Lebanon is very sensitive and delicate and calls for permanent alert and a careful approach."

Kahane serves in Israeli army

TEL AVIV (R) — Rabbi Meir Kahane, founder of an extremist Jewish organisation who was once imprisoned for anti-Arab activities, is serving with the Israeli army in the occupied West Bank, according to a military spokesman. The rabbi, who founded the Jewish Defence League in the United States several years ago, is serving as a private with a reserve unit stationed in Ramallah, he said. An American television crew complained to the authorities that Rabbi Kahane, armed with a M-16 assault rifle, confiscated video cassette showing a violent demonstration by Palestinian Wednesday.

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

Austrian named chief of human rights

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Senior Austrian diplomat Kurt Herndl was Thursday named director of the U.N. Human Rights Commission whose chief quit last week in a dispute over naming countries for rights violations. Mr. Herndl, 49, served with the U.N. secretariat for eight years until 1977 when he became head of the Austrian foreign ministry's international law department. He will succeed Theodor von Boven, who was regarded by U.N. officials as an activist on human rights. They said Mr. von Boven had made statements "not wholly in keeping with his status" as an international civil servant. The 47-year-old Dutch national said he was resigning due to "major differences of policy" with the New York U.N. leadership. Mr. Herndl will take over when Mr. von Boven's contract expires at the end of April.

Peking denies agreement on Hong Kong

PEKING (R) — The Chinese foreign ministry Thursday described as "completely groundless" a report that China and Britain had agreed to sign a friendship treaty over the future of Hong Kong. A Hong Kong newspaper, the independent financial daily Tsai Chin Yat Pao, said on Monday that China and Britain had agreed in principle to a treaty under which the British would continue to govern Hong Kong after existing leases expire.

Argentines go against penguin slaughter

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Argentine conservationists are rallying to block a plan to kill 48,000 penguins a year in Patagonia by a firm making gloves and other products. The Wildlife Fund for Argentina has called on the governor of the southern province of Chubut not to let the firm, Penguin Hodge, set up a factory in the area. The company wants to build a \$120,000 plant where 48,000 penguins would be processed each year for the next three years. Local newspapers said it had asked the central government to repeal a decree banning the killing of penguins. The coast of Chubut Province, part of the vast Patagonia plateau, is one of the world's largest reserves of penguins, seals and sea elephants.

3 arrested in Nigeria were not assassins

LAGOS (R) — Three people arrested when Pope John Paul visited Kaduna, in northern Nigeria, had not been planning to assassinate the pontiff, the Nigerian president's press secretary said Thursday. Charles Igbo said in a statement that the arrest of two men and a woman — one man with a pistol and ammunition — had no connection with the Pope's visit. He said they were bandits who had been caught at a regular police checkpoint three days before the Pope's visit on the first leg of his four-nation West African tour. They escaped from custody and took advantage of the security concentrating on the Pope's trip to Kaduna on Sunday to try to flee. But an alert taxi-driver tipped off the police. The three were arrested when the Pope was celebrating mass before some 500,000 people.

Belgium court frees bus hijacker

BRUSSELS (R) — A Belgian court Thursday freed a young man who hijacked a school bus and held 16 children hostage more than a year ago in protest against what he called social injustice in Belgium. The jury decided that Michael Stree, a 22-year-old unemployed mechanic, was not guilty because he had acted under an "irresistible impulse." The prosecution had demanded a three-year suspended prison sentence. Mr. Stree and two jobless teenagers seized a school bus in November 1980 in the southern Belgian town of Vielsam. They forced the driver at gun-point to drive to the television centre in Brussels where they demanded air time to denounce social conditions and unemployment rate in the European Economic Community. Mr. Stree, who has already spent 15 months in jail, told the court he regretted his action. "I was at the end of my tether. I'd had enough," he said, adding social injustice and family pressures had driven him to act. His accomplices were too young to be charged.

Manipur rebels kill 20 Indian soldiers

NEW DELHI (A.P.) — Twenty Indian army soldiers were killed and four injured Friday in the northeastern Indian state of Manipur by insurgents identified by police as members of the People's Liberation Army (PLA), the United News of India reported. The victims were members of the 21st Gurkha Regiment. It was not immediately clear whether all were Nepalese-born mercenaries who usually are recruited into the Gurkha units of the Indian army. The report said the ambush occurred about 30 kilometres northeast of Imphal, the state capital, near Ukhrul where the soldiers were posted. Manipur has been troubled since 1978 by an armed tribal insurgency demanding independence from India. Scores have died in clashes between Indian security forces and the rebels.

Hilton arsonist sentenced for life

LAS VEGAS (R) — Philip Cline, a waiter, was sentenced Wednesday to life imprisonment for the murder of eight people who died in a fire in the giant Las Vegas Hilton hotel. The jury, which found 23-year-old Cline guilty of murder last month, ordered the sentence to be passed on each of the eight counts. Under Nevada state law, it could still be commuted after he has spent 15 years in prison. The prosecution said at his trial that Mr. Cline started the fire last February so he could become a hero by putting it out. Mr. Cline said he started the fire accidentally when he dropped a marijuana cigarette while engaged in a homosexual act with a man he knew only as Joe.

Disunity or snub, Kaduna Muslims disappoint Pope

By Hugh A. Mulligan

The Associated Press
LAGOS — Did the Muslim religious leaders mean to snub Pope John Paul II when they skipped a planned meeting with him in northern Nigeria? Or did they have a great falling out among themselves as to who would be spokesman?

Christian churchmen are still uncertain why one of the most important parts of the pontiff's eight-day tour of Africa, his second visit to this continent in three years as Pope, never came off Sunday.

Official Vatican spokesmen refuse to go beyond the statement that the reasons were "independent of the Holy Father." They also refuse to name the leaders they say were expected at the Kaduna State House to meet the Pope, apparently not wishing to antagonise any of the Muslims.

But the Rev. Joseph Kenny, a specialist in Islamic studies at government's University of Ife, insists a snub, "is the most likely explanation... the Muslim leaders are not happy about the Pope's frequent use of the word 'evangelisation' in his sermons in Nigeria."

The Rev. Kenny said that by evangelisation, the Pope means Roman Catholics should preach the gospel. "But to the Muslims it takes on the connotation of crusading, of militantly going after converts."

On the other hand, Charles Williams, a Nigerian Methodist layman who is secretary of the Christian Council of Nigeria, thinks it likely there was a "serious falling out" among Nigeria's various Muslim sects, the Zamratu, the Ansar-ud-Deen, the Jumatu Islamyya and others.

He speculated they could not get together on who should greet the Pope and make the Muslim rejoinder.

"There is so much disagreement, they cannot go on the Holy Pilgrimage: to Mecca," Mr. Williams said, adding there had been "bloodshed in the past in the north because of these rivalries."

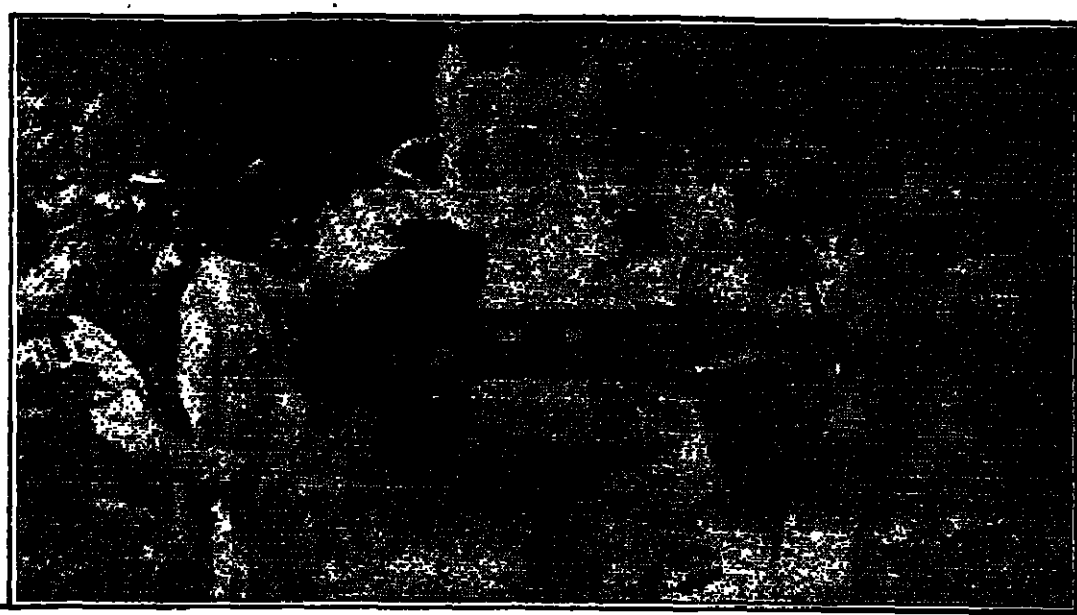
At Kaduna state a single religious leader of Nigeria's 30 million-strong Muslim community — a third of this most populous nation in Africa — showed up for the meeting.

Minutes before the Pope was to arrive at Kaduna 640 kilometres northeast of here — Nigerian Television put away its cameras, the band packed up its instruments and the honour guard returned to its barracks.

"I do not understand it," Nero Irogawo, Kaduna State protocol chief kept saying.

He said: "The band was here. The police were here. The refreshments were all ready. There was a committee, but nobody came. Nobody. It is very strange."

Vatican officials at first said the meeting had been canceled for "security reasons." Later, the Rev. Romeo Panciaroli, the chief Vatican press officer, said that "the meeting had been planned and the place established beforehand, but for reasons not depending on the Holy Father, it did not take place."



Pope John Paul II waves to cheering crowds in Ibadan, Nigeria

The Pope instead delivered his message at an airport waiting room to the governor of Kaduna State, a Muslim, and his retinue so that through them his message could be transmitted to the population of the heavily Muslim north.

His message was that the two great religions must work together in areas of human rights, public health and religious freedom — and especially in the establishment of religious schools taken over by the government after the 1967-70 Biafran war.

In that conflict, the federal government crushed the breakaway state of Biafra with the help of a food blockade said to have cost the lives of one million, 100 tribesmen, residents of the predominantly Catholic east.

The Pope visited Ibadan the day before his trip to the north and preached against polygamy, still widely practised here, even among some Catholics.

The Rev. Robert Kilbridge, a missionary from Chicago teaching at the Dominican seminary in the northern city of Ibadan, suggested the pontiff's message might have been offensive to the Muslims, considering the Koran speaks in favour of at least four wives and most Muslim clerics in the north have at least that many.

"The fallout of that speech could have reached here," he said.

Muslim leaders are known to be uneasy about the growth of the Catholic Church in the north — growth some missionaries boast about with the slogan: "The north is no longer Muslim."

Attending to that growth, the Dominican seminary at Ibadan is now preparing 17 candidates for the priesthood, while the nearby St. Peter and Paul seminary, which the Pope visited, has more than 40 candidates.

Father Frank Cusimano, a Jesuit who arrived in a village near Ibadan only a few weeks ago from Buffalo, N.Y., counts a dozen converts already. But he insists the church is "very low-key" activities in Muslim areas.

Usually you just go out and ask people if they love God and then ask what they think of Jesus Christ. The family is very strong here. Most conversions begin with a marriage outside of the traditional faith."

Other Christian sects in the north also have been making gains, especially the Pentecostal, Seraphic and Celestial churches, charismatic groups whose great appeal here is their emotional, hand-clapping, shouting prayer meetings.

"These groups recognise the Pope as their leader," pointed out the Rev. Sean O'Neill, who came to Africa 42 years ago from his native County Cork, Ireland.

Many of the charismatic leaders came to the Pope's mass at Ibadan Monday armed in gold mirrors and bronze croziers usually associated with Roman Catholic bishops.

The Rev. O'Neill said the Muslims clergy does "not like losing families and then whole villages to these evangelists."